

## **New poll: Minnesotans support mining, but not near the Boundary Waters**

*Republican pollster finds 2-to-1 statewide margin against mining near the BWCA, including consistent and significant opposition in MN-8*

March 2017

Ely, MN—Results of a [new poll](#) from President Donald Trump’s chief polling firm, Fabrizio Ward, shows that while Minnesotans generally support sulfide-ore copper mining in the state, nearly 60% oppose it near the Boundary Waters and less than 30% support it. In Minnesota’s Eighth Congressional District, which contains the Iron Range, opposition to sulfide-ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters exceeds support by double digit margins.

A memo prepared by pollster Bob Ward also finds protecting the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining is a potent electoral issue, with likely implications for future statewide races.

“By a 4-1 statewide margin, and even decisively in the 8th Congressional District, the potential appeal of mining jobs is cross-pressured by the desire to preserve the natural environment, the advantage is to the candidate who fights for the Boundary Waters Wilderness,” writes Ward.

The Boundary Waters is a world-class wilderness – America’s most popular – made up of some of the world’s cleanest water. It hundreds of thousands of people every year from all over the world to fish, hunt, camp, paddle and otherwise take part in Northeastern Minnesota’s \$850 tourism and recreation economy, which supports 17,000 jobs.

In December, acting in accordance with longstanding laws enacted with bipartisan support, federal land managers [made the decision](#) to put a pause on mining activities while they conducted a comprehensive public study to determine whether or not future mining should be allowed in the Boundary Waters watershed based on all scientific and economic factors, including robust public comment. The U.S. Forest Service will conduct its first public session related to the study on Thursday in Duluth.

Nearly 8 in 10 Minnesotans support this thorough ongoing study, including 70% of eighth congressional district residents. When compared with a process that first allows a mine company to present a mine plan, a whopping 70% of voters statewide favored the direction federal land managers are currently taking, including 61% in the eighth congressional district. This support crosses all party lines.

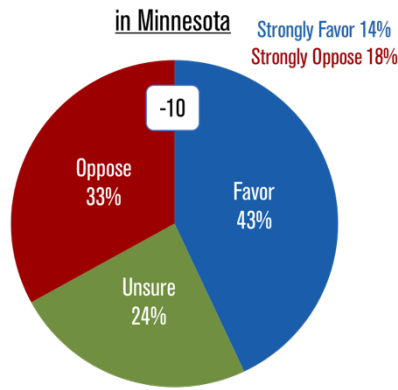
For more information, please get in touch with me.

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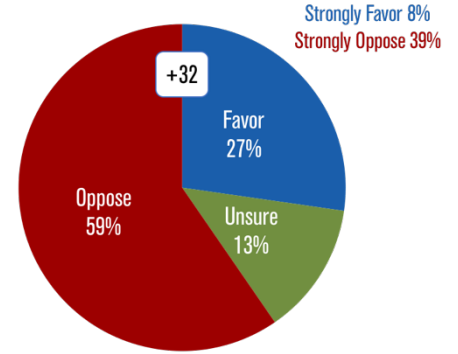
## Among Key Results:

The Boundary Waters Wilderness is a special place to Minnesota voters, and they want to protect it from sulfide ore copper mining. By a 32-point margin, Minnesota voters are decisively against sulfide-ore copper mining in the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. In fact, more voters strongly oppose mining near the Boundary Waters than the total of those in favor of it. Even half of the voters in CD-08 are against sulfide ore copper mining there.

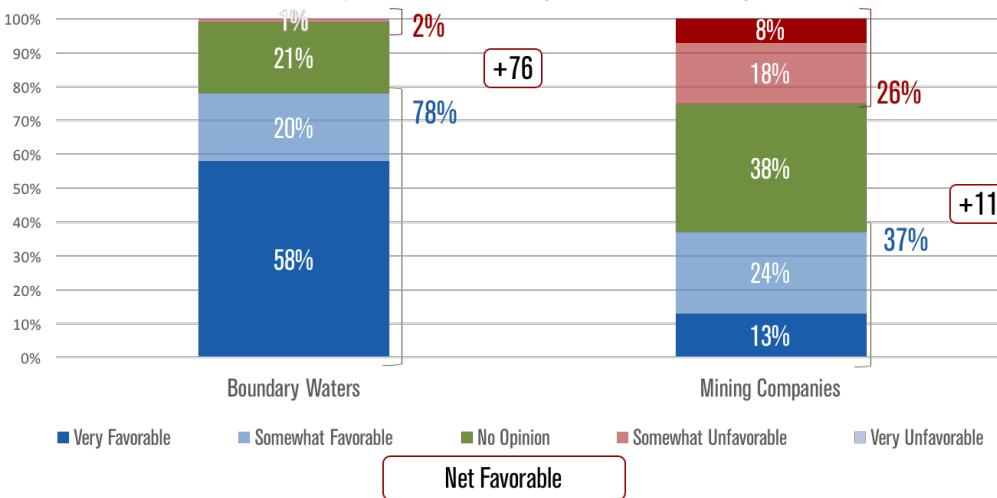
View of Sulfide-Ore Copper Mining



View of Sulfide-Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters



Boundary Waters & Mining Companies Image



Most Minnesotans are not anti-mining. Indeed, the industry's image is more positive than negative. However, Minnesotans are passionate about the Boundary Waters. Their love for the area is both broad and deep. Overall, 78% have a favorable opinion of the area, with an eye-popping 58% viewing it *very favorably*. The love for the Boundary Waters area is not surprising given that two-

thirds of voters have been there, with about one in five making the trip every year.

Though there has been [public opposition](#) to the process from Representative Nolan, voters believe the federal land management agencies made the correct decision in December. There is strong support for the current two-year pause to gather scientific information and public input about the potential impacts of sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters. This holds true among voters of all parties and in Rep. Nolan's District, CD-08.

View of Two Year Pause to Study Impact of Sulfide-Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters

