



Support a Review of Proposals for Non-Ferrous Sulfide Mining

POSITION: Hospitality Minnesota supports a responsible and rigorous environmental review of proposals for non-ferrous sulfide ore mining in Northeastern Minnesota.

BACKGROUND: Stewardship of our natural resources is critical to tourism and our outdoor way of life in Minnesota. There has been significant exploration in Northeastern Minnesota for ores containing copper, nickel, cobalt and other metals. All the ores found contain sulfide in addition to valuable metals.

In late January 2023, the Biden-Harris administration took action to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and surrounding watershed, withdrawing 225,504 acres in the Superior National Forest from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws for a 20-year period, subject to valid existing rights. This is authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to withdraw this area for a maximum of 20 years, subject to renewal. Only Congress can legislate a permanent withdrawal.

The areas that have long been considered for mining are amid pristine and important natural areas. Protecting our lakes, rivers and ground water from pollution through proper stewardship is extremely important to the future of tourism and the continued success of the membership of Hospitality Minnesota.

- The mining and processing of these ores pose a potential danger of sulfides combining with water to produce sulfuric acid. Very serious damage to the environment has occurred in other parts of the country from poorly planned or unregulated mining of ores containing sulfide.
- The technology being proposed for these mines is relatively new and still under development.
- Because water pollution can occur for a very long time after mining is completed, we support strict financial requirements that are immune from future bankruptcy filings.

Updated: 02/14/2023