

April 7, 2015

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
Re: Summary of Registered Voters in Minnesota

Executive Summary

Minnesota voters hold traditional iron mining in high regard and appreciate its historic and cultural import and economic impact in northern Minnesota. However, voters are wary of sulfide mining, with **a plurality of Minnesotans currently undecided on the issue of allowing sulfide mining in Minnesota – and just more than one-in-four (26%) initially in favor of sulfide mining.**

Importantly, once voters learn more about the sulfide mining process, more Minnesotans are opposed to sulfide mining than support it. This opposition is most pronounced in the Twin Cities and the suburbs, but **even in the 7-county area of Northeastern Minnesota as many voters are opposed to sulfide mining as support it.**

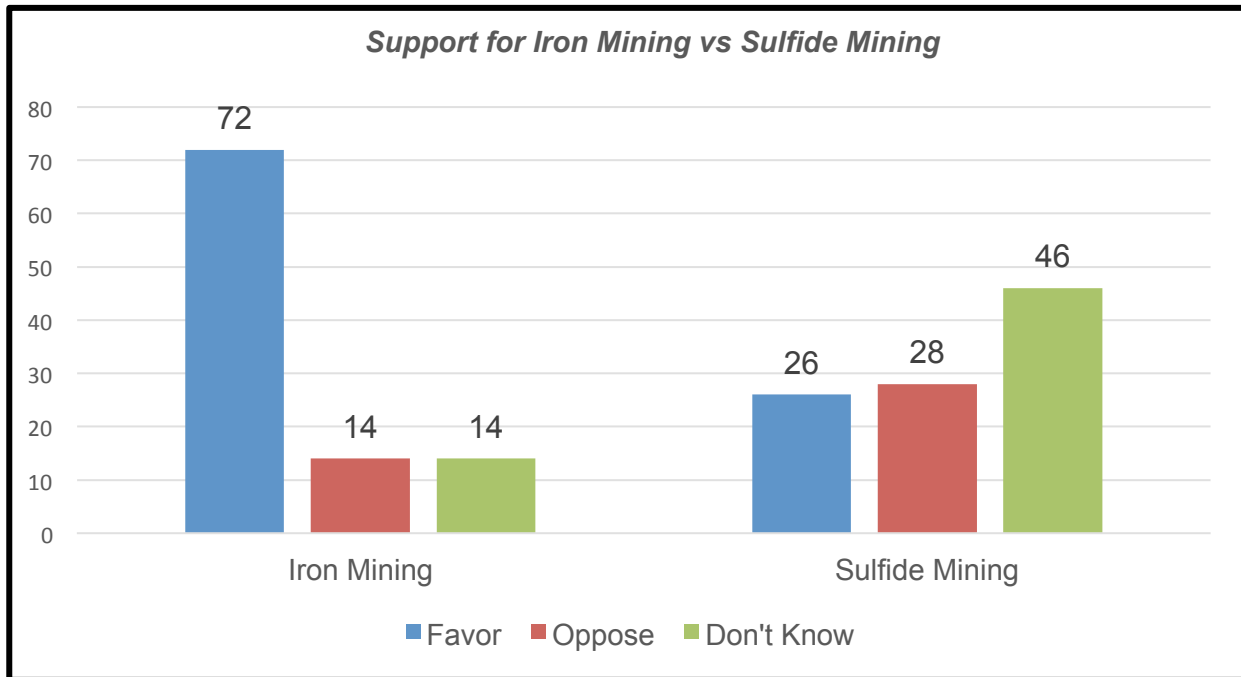
Voter opposition is especially unambiguous on the issue of sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters Watershed; **61% of voters in Northeastern Minnesota disapprove of sulfide mining “in areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness”.**

After hearing neutral information about sulfide mining, majorities believe sulfide mining would do more harm than good, inevitably pose serious threats to Minnesota’s water supply, and that mining companies can’t be trusted to protect against environmental degradation. **Even majorities of Northeastern Minnesota voters don’t trust mining companies to prevent damage to the local air and water.**

In summary, voters strongly oppose sulfide mining in areas near the Boundary Waters and more broadly have real concerns about public health impacts, private property infringement, and long-term taxpayer consequences of permitting sulfide mining in Minnesota.

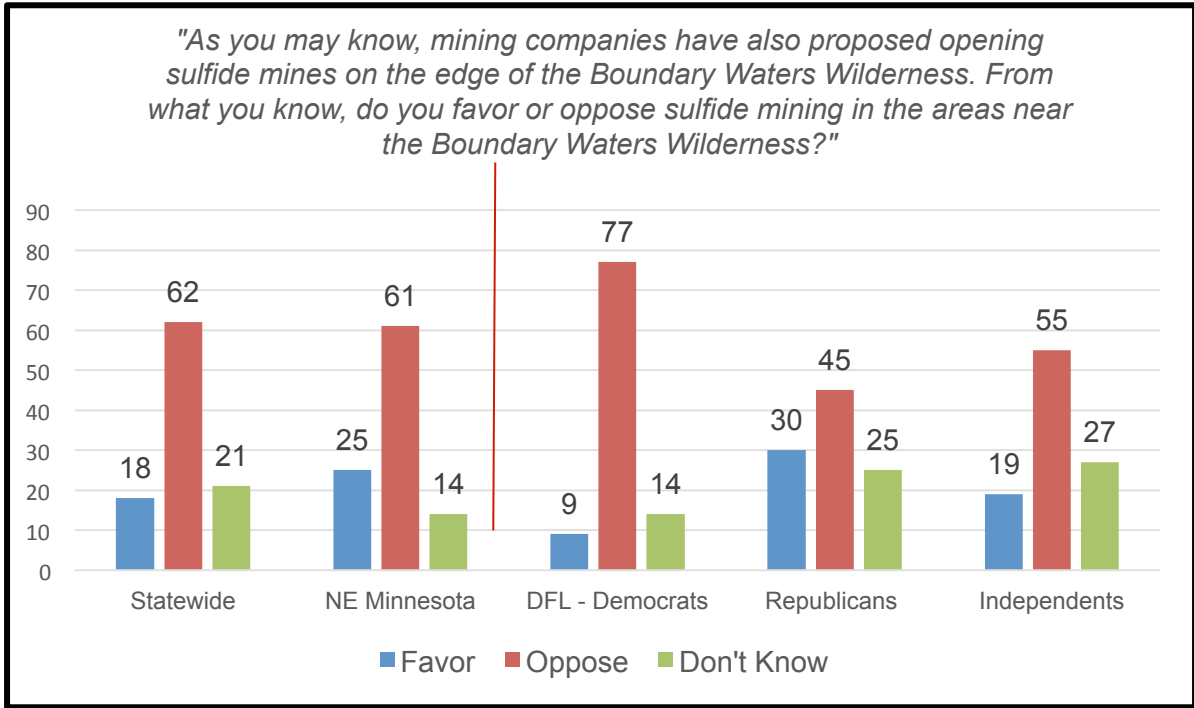
While Minnesotans support traditional iron/taconite mining, they also clearly do not view sulfide mining in the same vein.

- More than 70% of Minnesota voters favor the “iron mining that currently takes place in Minnesota”.
- However, a plurality statewide (46%) don’t have an opinion about “sulfide mining in Minnesota” – with more voters initially opposed (28%) than in support (26%).



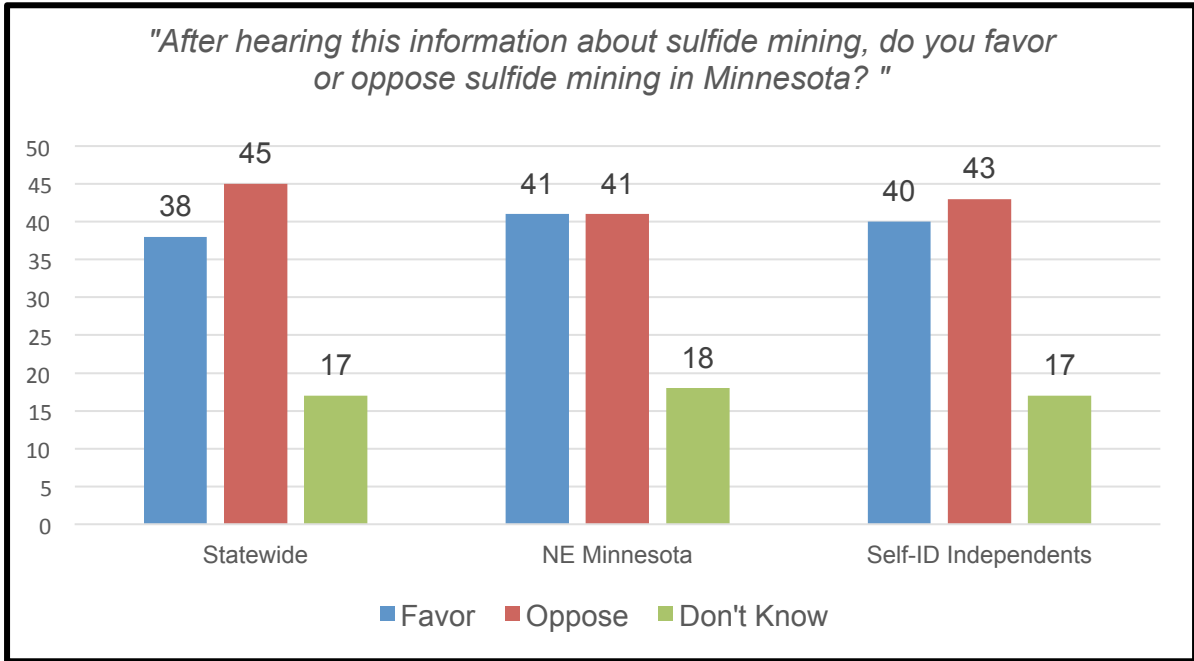
And Minnesotans strongly oppose sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

- Clear majorities of Minnesotans – both statewide and in Northeastern Minnesota counties – oppose sulfide mining in areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.
- This statewide opposition includes three-in-four Democrats, a majority of Independents, and a 15-point margin among Republicans.

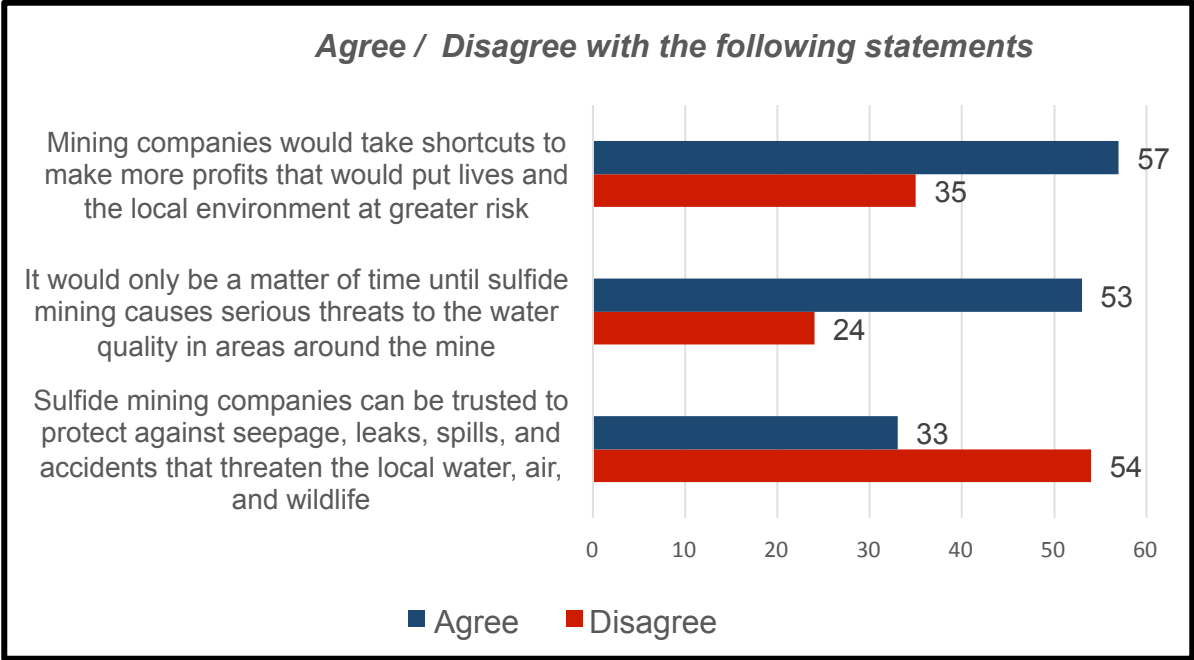


When voters learn more about sulfide mining, opposition increases.

- After voters learn more about sulfide mining, a seven-point plurality oppose sulfide mining in Minnesota.
- Voters in the Northeastern Minnesota are evenly divided on this issue, with a narrow margin of self-ID Independents opposed.



A majority of Minnesota voters believe sulfide mining poses a real threat to Minnesota’s water and local environment and do not trust mining companies to manage the process.



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