

**Front page of the resolution:**

**Title:**

Support for the continuing protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park

**Be it resolved that:**

In order to continue to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park, two of America's great natural treasures, from being permanently contaminated by proposed sulfide-ore copper mining in the Superior National Forest, we support/urge the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of the Interior withdrawing all federal lands in the Rainy River Drainage Basin from sulfide-ore copper mining.

**Be it finally resolved:**

This resolution has no intent to impact the state of Minnesota's taconite industry.

Back page of the resolution (whereas clauses)

**WHEREAS:**

*Whereas:* The Wilderness Act of 1964, sponsored by U.S. Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and signed by President Lyndon Johnson, set aside the Boundary Waters as Wilderness to be protected forever;

*Whereas:* Voyageurs National Park was created by an act of Congress in 1975 to permanently protect the area's historic, cultural and natural significance;

*Whereas:* The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park are immensely popular; the Boundary Waters is the most popular National Wilderness in the United States and Voyageurs National Park receives more than 250,000 visitors every year;

*Whereas:* The Boundary Waters, the adjacent Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada, and Voyageurs together form the greatest protected lakeland canoe country in the world and contribute positively to Minnesota's reputation as a desirable place to live, work, and visit;

*Whereas:* The Boundary Waters and Voyageurs are important contributors to the local, regional, and statewide economies based on sustainable industries; Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy alone generates 118,000 jobs, \$11.6 billion in consumer spending, and \$815 million in local and state tax revenue;

*Whereas:* State and federal no-mining areas in the Superior National Forest protect northern sections of the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining pollution; but southern portions of the Boundary Waters are unprotected and vulnerable to sulfide-ore copper mining pollution.

*Whereas:* The US Department of Interior and the US Forest Service have the responsibility and authority to manage our National Forests, National Parks and National Wilderness Areas so that they remain intact and healthy ecosystems for enjoyment now and for generations to come;

*Whereas:* The EPA calls hardrock mining, which includes sulfide-ore copper mining, the most toxic industry in America and a peer-reviewed and published hydrology study documents that pollution from a proposed sulfide-ore copper mine called Twin Metals, located near the Boundary Waters, would flow directly into the Boundary Waters.