

## Conversation Contents

TMM = Correspondence

### Attachments:

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**"Maritza (Andrea) Reilly" <mreilly@[REDACTED]>**

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**From:** "Maritza (Andrea) Reilly" <mreilly@[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wed Jul 11 2018 14:46:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Francis Piccoli <fpiccoli@[REDACTED]>  
**CC:** Elena Fink <efink@[REDACTED]>, Sabry Hanna <shanna@[REDACTED]>, "Mary (Kathy) Gunderman" <mgunderman@[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** TMM = Correspondence  
**Attachments:** Rajeff Sports LTR to Zinke 05-30-18 - 201806261453.pdf Senator Tina Smith LTR to Brian Steed request for comment period 6-27-18 on Superior Withdrawal.pdf

Hello Francis, just as any FYI (in case you had not seen them), the attached 2 correspondence came in the past few weeks. I am not sure what the process is in responding to these types of correspondence but I wanted you to be aware of them. Perhaps WO has already handled them.

Thank you.

**M. Andrea Reilly, Litigation Specialist**  
**Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management**  
Eastern States, Division of Natural Resources  
20 M. Street SE, Suite 950  
Washington DC 20003  
Ph: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
mreilly@[REDACTED]

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**Francis Piccoli <fpiccoli@blm.gov>**

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**From:** Francis Piccoli <fpiccoli@[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thu Jul 12 2018 05:05:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Maritza (Andrea) Reilly" <mreilly@[REDACTED]>  
**CC:** Elena Fink <efink@[REDACTED]>, Sabry Hanna <shanna@[REDACTED]>, "Mary (Kathy) Gunderman" <mgunderman@[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: TMM = Correspondence

Thank you, Andrea. We worked a draft response in DTS on the Sen. Smith request. I haven't seen the other letter, but will take a deeper look when I get in the office. Best regards, Francis

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2018, at 4:46 PM, Maritza (Andrea) Reilly <mreilly@ > wrote:

Hello Francis, just as any FYI (in case you had not seen them), the attached 2 correspondence came in the past few weeks. I am not sure what the process is in responding to these types of correspondence but I wanted you to be aware of them. Perhaps WO has already handled them.

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">mreilly@

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<Rajeff Sports LTR to Zinke 05-30-18 - 201806261453.pdf>

<Senator Tina Smith LTR to Brian Steed request for comment period 6-27-18 on Superior Withdrawal.pdf>

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

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RECEIVED  
2018 MAY 30 AM 9:00  
OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretaries Zinke and Perdue,

We, the undersigned community of hunters, anglers, businesses, and conservation organizations, write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Interior's May 2, 2018 action to reinstate two expired mineral leases for Antofagasta's Twin Metals Minnesota. Requests to renew these two leases had been denied by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2016 following a decision by the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) to withhold its legally required consent to renewals.

We respectfully request an immediate suspension of all mineral development approvals during an ongoing Forest Service study of a proposed twenty-year mineral withdrawal of 234,328 acres of Superior National Forest lands in the Rainy River Watershed and adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (Boundary Waters). The suspension of mineral development approvals should include a halt to any actions to reinstate or renew mineral leases and all new permits, leases, or other approvals by the BLM and the Forest Service in the Rainy River Watershed.

The Forest Service study commenced in January 2017 and included a two-year segregation of public lands from new mining approvals, including leases, permits, or other approvals by the BLM and the Forest Service. The Forest Service study will be the basis of a decision by Secretary Zinke on the Forest Service's application to withdraw Superior National Forest lands from the mineral leasing program to protect the Boundary Waters and the Superior National Forest from harm inherent in sulfide-ore copper mining. The study is supported by both Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue.

Hunters, anglers, and recreational users support the Forest Service's comprehensive, science based analysis of environmental, economic, and social impacts of the proposed twenty-year withdrawal. This study includes an assessment of the impacts that the inevitable consequences of copper mining, including acid mine drainage, would have on the public lands, fish, and wildlife of the Boundary Waters and downstream lands and waters.

Unfortunately, the recent action by the Department of Interior to reinstate the leases ignores the well-documented objections of the Forest Service in its 2016 decision to withhold consent to renewal of the two mineral leases and in its 2017 application for a twentyyear mineral withdrawal. The reinstatement and any other approvals during the Forest Service study undercuts the study, pre-empts decision-making based on facts and science, and violates the intent and spirit of the two-year segregation.

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The Boundary Waters and the rest of the Superior National Forest are known for excellent water quality. Sulfide-ore copper mining on the edge of the Boundary Waters would cause irreparable harm to the very quality that makes these lands and waters so unique. Acid mine drainage caused by this type of mining would be particularly damaging to the Boundary Waters because of the interconnected lakes, streams, wetlands, and aquifers downstream of the proposed mine sites. This habitat supports world-class recreational fisheries that are sensitive to small changes in the ecosystem. Acid mine drainage lowers pH and exposes fish and other aquatic organisms to heavy metals, like copper, lead, mercury, and nickel.

The Boundary Waters is the most visited Wilderness Area in the nation, and a world-class hunting and fishing destination. Americans have outstanding access to these Wilderness fisheries through 84 entry points that lead to 1,100 lakes and over 2,000 campsites. The three million-acre Superior National Forest, which includes the Boundary Waters, contains twenty percent of all the freshwater in the 193 million-acre National Forest System. Downstream from the Boundary Waters are Voyageurs National Park, Rainy Lake, and Lake of the Woods, which provide some of Minnesota's best hunting and fishing experiences. The Boundary Waters is a public lands and waters success story. It is imperative we defend this Wilderness for future generations.

The Boundary Waters is a major contributor to a robust hunting and fishing economy in Minnesota that provides \$3.17 billion in consumer spending annually and 47,900 direct jobs. The Outdoor Industry Association recently published a study that found 140,000 Minnesotans are employed in outdoor recreation, in no small part because of the Boundary Waters. Any damage to the Boundary Waters, or even the perception that the Wilderness is deteriorating, threatens this outdoor economy. An economic study shows that copper mining in the Rainy River Watershed is likely to destroy 4,490 local jobs in the Boundary Waters region alone. We have over 750 stores that sell out products and they rely on cold clean water to survive. We rely on you and your organization to protect the environments where fish are found. Please help the shops that rely on your commitment to protect and preserve wild places.

Our nation's hunting and fishing economy, our sporting traditions, and healthy fish and wildlife populations depend on places like the Boundary Waters.

We call on you to immediately suspend all mineral development approvals on public lands in the Rainy River Watershed during the Forest Service's ongoing study of a mineral withdrawal.

Sincerely,



Tim Rajeff

President Rajeff Sports

7500 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 1C

Vancouver, WA 98665

## United States Senate

June 27, 2018

Deputy Director Brian Steed  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Director Steed,

In January 2017, the USDA Forest Service Region 9 Forester in Milwaukee requested a mineral segregation and withdrawal of 234,328 acres within Superior National Forest. The Federal lands covered by the request are within the Rainy River watershed and drain into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The request for withdrawal initiated a study period that will end in January 2019. The Forest Service is currently conducting an environmental assessment and compiling several ancillary reports that will guide a final decision on the proposed withdrawal by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

On June 20, 2018, at a round table discussion and then again at a rally in Duluth, Minnesota, President Trump made comments implying that the request for a segregation and withdrawal would be rejected. I have heard from Minnesotans who are concerned that regular process has been short-circuited and the outcome of the review process predetermined.

Having heard the concerns of my constituents, I have two requests for you and your counterpart at the Forest Service. First, I would like the environmental assessment and ancillary reports to be released to the public at the same time they are conveyed to BLM. Second, I am requesting a 30 day public comment period once the assessment and reports are completed and prior to any formal decision on the withdrawal application.

Mining is an important tradition in northeastern Minnesota and an ongoing source of good jobs. At the same time, the BWCAW is a fragile and irreplaceable resource, the value of which was eloquently described in a letter from former USDA Forest Service Chief Tidwell to BLM Director Kornze in December 2016. The Superior National Forest (which contains the BWCAW) holds 20 percent of National Forest System's fresh water supply. The decision making process regarding the proposed withdrawal must be thorough, complete, and unbiased—we as a country cannot afford to get this one wrong. Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator