Good morning, Mitch, Barbara, Francis, Dean, Davida,

For your review and surname via DTS# BLM0015518 is a draft response letter to Jobs for Minnesotans, Mining Minnesota, and Range Association of Municipalities and Schools. Please edit as you see fit and upload back into DTS. Once Eastern States completes its review, this will be routed through the Department for Assistant Secretary signature.

Thank you.

All best,

Elena Fink
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States
desk; cell

On Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 9:30 AM, <DTS> wrote:
Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert!

Your office (ES-912 External Affairs) has a task assigned.

Please log in to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address: https://dts.fws.gov/dts/preLogin.do?officeld=4478 and review Document Control Number (DCN)** BLM0015518.

To move the document to the next office in the routing process, enter the task completed date for your office's routing in the routing screen and save the record.

Document Subject: withdrawal of lands in Minnesota
"Gettinger, Dean" <dgettinger@>

From: "Gettinger, Dean" <dgettinger@
Sent: Wed Aug 15 2018 08:58:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Fink, Elena" <efink@
CC: Francis Piccoli <fpiccoli>, Davida Carnahan <dcarnahan>, Lesley Elser <laelser@
Subject: Re: DTS Assignment--withdrawal of lands in Minnesota

Elena,

Missing a "the" in Sec. of the Interior. Otherwise no comments. I am not in the DTS surnaming stream so didn't want to try to make the edit within DTS.

Dean

On Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 8:40 AM, Fink, Elena <efink@
Good morning, Mitch, Barbara, Francis, Dean, Davida,

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Document Subject: withdrawal of lands in Minnesota
Action Required: 5-Review/Comment
Assigned By Office: ES-930 Natural Resources User: Elena Fink

**Thank you**.
"Fink, Elena" <efink@blm.gov>

From: "Fink, Elena" <efink@blm.gov>
To: "Gettlinger, Dean" <dgettlinger@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: DTS Assignment--withdrawal of lands in Minnesota

This works. Thank you, Dean.
Safe travels.
Wish you and your family consolation.

All best,
Elena Fink
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States desk; cell

On Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 10:58 AM, Gettlinger, Dean <dgettlinger@blm.gov> wrote:
Elena,
Missing a "the" in Sec. of the Interior. Otherwise no comments. I am not in the DTS surnaming stream so didn't want to try to make the edit within DTS.

Dean

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All best,
Elena Fink
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States desk; cell

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Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert!

Your office (ES-912 External Affairs) has a task assigned.

Please log in to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address:
Thank you, Elena. I moved it on to 910 after our discussion yesterday. Best regards, Francis

Sent: Thu Aug 16 2018 05:01:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Fink, Elena" <efink@blm.gov>
CC: Mitchell Leverette <mleveret@blm.gov>, Barbara Engers <beggers@blm.gov>, Dean Gettinger <dgettinger@blm.gov>, Davida Carnahan <dcarnahan@blm.gov>, Lesley Elser <laelser@blm.gov>, jmoore@blm.gov
Subject: Re: DTS Assignment—withdrawal of lands in Minnesota

Thank you, Elena. I moved it on to 910 after our discussion yesterday. Best regards, Francis. Sent from my iPhone.

On Aug 15, 2018, at 9:40 AM, Fink, Elena <efink@blm.gov> wrote: > > Good morning, Mitch, Barbara, Francis, Dean, Davida, > > For your review and surname via DTS# BLM0015518 is a draft response letter > to Jobs for Minnesotans, Mining Minnesota, and Range Association > of Municipalities and Schools. Please edit as you see fit and upload back > info DTS. Once Eastern States completes its review, this will be routed > through the Department for Assistant Secretary signature. > > Thank you. >> All best, > *Elena Fink* > Deputy State Director, Natural Resources > Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States > desk: cell: >> On Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 9:30 AM, <DTS@blm.gov> wrote: >> Hello and welcome to the DTS automated email alert! >> >> Your office (ES-912 External Affairs) has a task assigned. >> >> Please log in to the Data Tracking System at the following URL Address: >> >> https://dts.fws.gov/dts/preLogin.do?officeId=4478 and review Document >> Control Number (DCN)** BLM0015518. >> >> To move the document to the next office in the routing process, enter the >> task completed date for your office's routing in the routing screen and >> save the record. >> >> Document Subject: withdrawal of lands in Minnesota >> Action Required: 5-Review/Comment >> Assigned By Office: ES-930 Natural Resources User: Elena Fink >> >> **Thank you**.
Ms. Nancy Norr,
Board Chair
Jobs for Minnesotans
http://jobsforminnesotans.org/

Mr. Frank Ongaro,
Executive Director
Mining Minnesota
P.O. Box 16666
Duluth, MN 55816

Mr. Steve Giorgi,
Executive Director
Range Association of Municipalities and Schools
5525 Emerald Ave.
Mountain Iron, MN 55768

Dear Ms. Norr, Mr. Ongaro, Mr. Giorgi:

Thank you for your letter dated July 16, 2018, in which you request that the outstanding withdrawal proposal in northeastern Minnesota be promptly rescinded.

In December of 2016, the U.S. Forest Service submitted an application to withdraw over 234,000 acres within the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, from disposition under the mineral leasing laws. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) subsequently published a Federal Register notice announcing the proposal, which initiated the review process. The notice also initiated a temporary withdrawal (segregation) which expires January 20, 2019, or sooner if the Secretary of Interior makes a decision or the US Forest Service withdraws their application.

The US Forest Service has been preparing an environmental review document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which takes into consideration the public comments received and factors affecting the quality of the human environment, including socio-economic considerations. The BLM is working in coordination with the US Forest Service on the best approach to bring this analysis to a close and to consider options to address the 48 pending applications to develop minerals within the Superior National Forest.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I look forward to working with you as we manage our public lands for multiple uses, including environmentally-responsible mineral development. If you have additional concerns, please contact Patrick Wilkinson, BLM Legislative Affairs Division Chief, at [redacted].

Sincerely,
Assistant Secretary
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**TASKING PROFILE**

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July 16, 2018

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

Office of the Secretary
Secretary Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of the members of the coalition Jobs for Minnesotans, the industry association MiningMinnesota and the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), we are writing to follow up on our January 30, 2018 letter expressing our deep concerns about the outstanding mineral withdrawal proposal in northeastern Minnesota. The threat of this proposal has loomed over our region for far too long without action.

Last month, we welcomed President Trump to Duluth, Minnesota. He clearly understood the importance of mining to our region and we were pleased that he chose to speak with us about mining and jobs during a community roundtable. He expressed unbridled resolve in his remarks for the rescission of the mineral withdrawal proposal.

Yet, weeks after his visit, we have seen no formal indication from leadership within the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to rescind the mineral withdrawal proposal. This is despite evidence that Minnesotans do not support the proposal. In fact, according to a recent poll, the majority of voters across the state of Minnesota (64 percent) expressed trust that state and federal environmental agencies would ensure that mining is done safely and responsibly. Furthermore, more than two-thirds of Minnesota voters (70 percent) believe potential copper-nickel mining proposals in Minnesota should be allowed to go through the rigorous state and federal environmental review process and granted permits if environmental protection standards are met.

As we’ve mentioned in our previous correspondence, the economic opportunities from mining projects are significant – thousands of direct jobs, two times as many jobs in spinoff industries and billions of dollars to support K-12 education across the state. The emerging mining industry is an investment in the future well-being of our state and nation; with the withdrawal proposal looming over the region and the state, our future is at risk.

As noted in Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt’s recent viewpoint in the Duluth News Tribune—following the President’s visit to our state, the DOI has taken strides to free up land in the Western United States to support exploration for minerals critical to our national security. We need similar action in Minnesota to support domestic production of these minerals from one of the largest untapped deposits of copper and nickel in the world.