

# MINERAL WITHDRAWAL CRA



## GET THE FACTS.

H.J. Resolution 140 is a Congressional Review Act (CRA) disapproval resolution that would reverse the mining ban in Northern Minnesota.

***MYTH:** This legislation is the only thing standing between the Trump Administration and the Twin Metals project. There is basically a handshake deal in place that, once this passes, the Trump Administration will greenlight Twin Metals Minnesota (TMM).*

- **FACT:** This CRA doesn't approve any specific mine; it restores Minnesota's authority to evaluate proposals case by case through its established permitting processes.
- **FACT:** Projects must still meet Minnesota's strict state and federal standards on water quality, wildlife, cultural resources, and financial assurances before any mining can begin.
- **FACT:** This is about process, not outcomes: restoring due diligence, public input, and science-based review so only projects that meet the bar can move forward.



***MYTH:** The federal mineral withdrawal put in place under the Biden administration was the result of years of comprehensive and scientifically-sound environmental analysis.*

- **FACT:** The claim that the withdrawal was “comprehensive and scientifically sound” is rhetoric, **not** record. The study that led to the withdrawal was deeply flawed and did not take into account any scientific data on the region or the proposed projects in the area. There is an established, rigorous and site-specific environmental review path which the Administration could have chosen to pursue, but they did not.
- **FACT:** A blanket withdrawal avoided the science rather than applying it. The withdrawal never tested modern safeguards against Minnesota's stringent water standards. Science requires measuring design against standards; the categorical ban avoided that test.



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**MYTH:** The CRA moving through Congress will return the leases to projects like TMM and force through toxic copper mining.

- **FACT:** The CRA disapproval would overturn Washington's blanket mineral withdrawal and restore the long-standing, case-by-case permitting framework in Northern Minnesota.
- **FACT:** The CRA does not return leases to or approve any specific mining project; it would trigger Minnesota's rigorous, science-driven review, which includes covering environmental impact statements, water quality modeling, tailings design, financial assurance, and public input, before any permit could be issued. If a project can't meet the state's toughest standards, it won't proceed. This is about restoring the process, not rubber-stamping mining.
- **FACT:** Modern underground copper-nickel projects can meet Minnesota's toughest-in-the-nation water standards, and TMM is designed to do exactly that as they have been carefully planning how to sustainably mine metals in the region. TMM's modern design is built to be the safest, most environmentally protective way to access critical minerals.
- **FACT:** TMM intends to meet and exceed Minnesota's strict environmental safety standards. If the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and regulators find this is not the case, the project will not ultimately be approved – that's the Minnesota process.

**MYTH:** Passing the CRA will destroy America's most visited Wilderness area and leave the mess up to the American and Minnesotan tax payers.

- **FACT:** Modern underground copper-nickel projects can meet Minnesota's toughest-in-the-nation water standards, and TMM is designed to do exactly that as they have been carefully planning how to sustainably mine metals in the region. TMM's modern design is built to be the safest, most environmentally protective way to access critical minerals.
- **FACT:** Financial assurance is a requirement for mining projects to set aside significant money up front as part of the permitting process to ensure that there are sufficient funds as needed after mine reclamation.
- **FACT:** TMM workers are Boundary Waters neighbors and stewards, not outsiders. They live in Ely, send their kids to local schools, fish the same lakes, paddle the same routes, and depend on clean water. That's why their plan is built around protection first - closed-loop water systems, dry-stack tailings, rigorous monitoring, and Minnesota's strict standards - so they can support good jobs at home while safeguarding the wilderness we all cherish.



**MYTH:** *The CRA benefits a Chilean mining company that sends its minerals to China at the risk of Minnesota's treasured environment.*

- **FACT:** This CRA is not about one specific project or company. It's about restoring a process that would allow for fair consideration of projects interested in producing copper, nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals right here in America by going through state and federal environmental reviews to determine whether they can meet our stringent regulatory standards.
- **FACT:** The most effective way to keep minerals out of China's control is to produce and process them here in the U.S.
- **FACT:** The area impacted by the mineral withdrawal contains the world's largest known undeveloped deposits of copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group metals, in addition to significant helium resources. Minnesota has the solution for stronger American supply chains.
- **FACT:** The people who work at Twin Metals are Minnesotans who care deeply about protecting the environment while advancing opportunities for their communities.
- **FACT:** Mining companies do not secure processing contracts until late in the permitting process and we have processing capacity within North America. Certainly, the U.S. is making progress in expanding domestic processing, such as a new nickel refinery currently under construction in Oklahoma. The administration has also issued an Executive Order to develop new processing facilities in the U.S.
- **FACT:** Investment in the region and Minnesota-based projects provides much needed union-caliber jobs in northern Minnesota, with additional economic benefit to Minnesota down the supply chain, including for suppliers, rail, shipping, logistics support, and other project supported jobs. More people in these rural communities means more consumer spending for groceries, restaurants, and shops.
- **FACT:** The products from these Minnesota projects benefit America. These investments mean stronger national security and supply chains, and the materials America needs for grid reliability, EVs, and advanced manufacturing - all produced under world-class environmental safeguards and enforced U.S. labor laws. The paychecks, royalty payments, tax base, and opportunities stay in Minnesota; the strategic value flows to the United States.



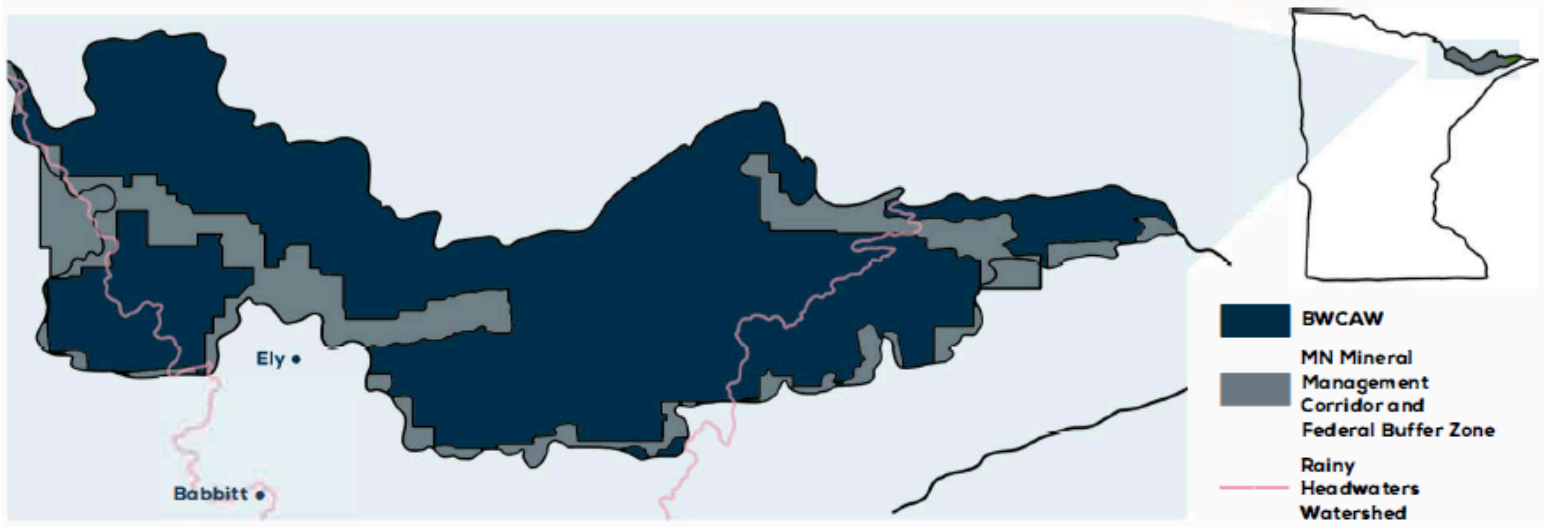
**MYTH:** There are no copper-sulfide mines that have operated in the United States without causing pollution.

- **FACT:** The Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith, Wisconsin was an open-pit copper-gold mine with operations beginning in July 1991 and reclamation activities wrapping up at the end of 1999. Active mining occurred from 1993 to 1997. On December 20, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a certification of completion of reclamation for the entire operation.
- **FACT:** Throughout the life of the project, the company has remained in substantial compliance with all permit conditions and applicable standards. There were no exceedances of any effluent (treated wastewater) limits during the period of discharge. Monitoring of water quality and other characteristics in the Flambeau River similarly did not show any impacts from the effluent discharge (*source: Wisconsin DNR*).
- **FACT:** Eagle Mine in Michigan, a nickel and copper mine, began operations in 2014 and is still an operating mine. It has operated without harm or damage to the environment.



**MYTH:** Mining in the headwaters of the Boundary Waters would pollute one of the crown jewels of America's public lands and pose a toxic threat to the Wilderness and the approximately 250,000 people who visit it each year.

- **FACT:** The Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) is already highly protected. Mining is prohibited not just in the BWCA, but also in the surrounding buffer zones.
- **FACT:** Minnesota laws prohibit any activity from degrading the BWCA's water quality.
- **FACT:** Modern underground copper-nickel projects can meet Minnesota's toughest-in-the-nation water standards, and projects impacted by the CRA are designed to do exactly that as they have been carefully planning how to sustainably mine metals in the region.



**MYTH:** The proposed mine would likely contaminate the waters that run into the Boundary Waters' interconnected waterways, permanently damaging this beautiful wilderness.

- **FACT:** The Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) is already **highly** protected. Mining is prohibited in the BWCA and surrounding buffer zones, and Minnesota laws prohibit any activity from degrading the BWCA's water quality.
- **FACT:** This claim ignores modern, engineered safeguards and Minnesota's stringent permitting. TMM is designed as underground with a compact footprint; uses closed-loop water management with treatment and reuse; employs filtered, dry-stack tailings and cemented paste backfill to isolate sulfides; and layers liners, collection systems, and real-time monitoring with automatic shutdown protocols.
- **FACT:** Minnesota requires proof - via modeling, baseline data, and enforceable permits - that water quality standards will be met for any project, plus robust financial assurance. If the project can't demonstrate protection, it won't be permitted.



Minnesota Rule 7050.0335 designates waters within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as **Prohibited Outstanding Resource Value Waters** under the state antidegradation policy, meaning that new or expanded discharges are prohibited to protect existing high quality and exceptional characteristics of these waters.

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**Minnesota DNR** | [dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/metallic\\_nf](http://dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/metallic_nf)

**MPCA** | <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/water-quality-standards>

**Minnesota Legislature 2025 Statutes** | <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/84.523>