



Dear U.S. Senators:

On behalf of businesses reliant on the outdoors, we write to strongly oppose efforts to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to revoke mineral withdrawal protections near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and Superior National Forest, including House Joint Resolution 140. As The Conservation Alliance, Outdoor Industry Association, and Brands for Public Lands members, we represent over 400 outdoor businesses that depend on responsible, fair, predictable, and balanced management for our nation's public lands and waters.

Our businesses are deeply invested in the long-term health of America's public lands. The \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy depends on intact landscapes, clean water, and durable protections for appropriate landscapes. The outdoor recreation economy in northeastern Minnesota alone supports over 17,000 jobs and contributes more than \$1 billion in annual sales. A study by the Harvard Economics Department in 2018 found that retaining the withdrawal for the Boundary Waters region will generate stronger and more sustainable economic benefits over the long-term than short term and toxic sulfide-ore copper mining could. Many of our companies have retail partners or stores, guides and outfitters, sales representatives, or nonprofit partners based in the region who would be immediately impacted by H.J.R. 140.

The BWCAW is one of the most iconic and heavily visited wilderness areas in the country, drawing paddlers, anglers, hunters, hikers, and families from across the nation. Throughout the region, rural communities rely on outfitters, guides, retailers, hospitality, and tourism businesses like ours tied directly to the Boundary Waters. As proposed, the sulfide-ore copper mining in the headwaters poses an irreversible risk to this ecosystem, which contains over 1,100 lakes, that no mitigation can undo once water quality is compromised. Short-term extraction cannot outweigh the permanent loss of clean water, wilderness values, and economic stability.

We are also deeply concerned about the precedent this action would set. Public Land Order 7917 is a 20-year mineral withdrawal grounded in a comprehensive U.S. Forest Service environmental analysis and overwhelming public support and was issued under long-standing authorities in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Public Land Orders have never been treated as "rules" subject to the CRA. Applying the CRA here would open the door for Congress to retroactively target nearly any administrative public lands action, undermining regulatory certainty for businesses like ours, land managers, and communities.

This approach prioritizes the interests of a foreign multinational mining corporation over the expressed will of the American public, American businesses, and our customers and the proven economic benefits of conservation and recreation. The Boundary Waters delivers far greater



and more enduring value to the American economy than sulfide-ore copper mining ever could. The Boundary Waters and its recreation and conservation values support jobs, local economies, tribal communities, and a landscape that cannot be replaced once lost.

Running successful businesses demands regulatory certainty to support business continuity. The use of the CRA to reverse the Boundary Waters mineral withdrawal poses not only a real threat to our business bottom lines, but a deeper, existential risk: it injects uncertainty into the future of our public lands and waters, and in doing so undermines the long-term economic stability and vitality that outdoor businesses depend on. We are asking Senators who represent our headquarters states and the nation to reject the use of the CRA to overturn the Boundary Waters mineral withdrawal and to oppose H.J.R. 140.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PH".

Paul Hendricks
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KE".

Kent Ebersole
President
Outdoor Industry Association



Submitted in partnership with and behalf of the following businesses and organizations:

37.5 Technology
Boulder, CO

Adventure Travel Conservation Fund
Mukilteo, WA

AdventureKEEN
Birmingham, AL

Alpacka Raft
Mancos, CO

Altra
Denver, CO

American Outdoor Products
Boulder, CO

Ardea Endurance LLC
Missoula, MT

Atlantic Packaging
Wilmington, NC

Backbone Media LLC
Carbondale, CO

Bedrock Sandals
Missoula, MT

Belinda Sanda Sales
Redding, CA

Bemis Worldwide
Shirley, MA

Big Agnes, Inc.
Steamboat Springs, CO

Black Diamond Equipment
Salt Lake City, UT

BOCO Gear
Boulder, CO

Bonfire Collective
Golden, CO

BWdB
Minneapolis, MN

Cheeky Fishing
North Adams, MA

Civic Shout
Lewes, DE

Compose[d]
New York City, NY

Conatus Counsel
Fort Collins, CO

Duct Tape Then Beer
Seattle, WA

Eagle Creek
Steamboat Springs, CO

Elkhorn Coffee Co.
Elkhorn, NE



Emerger Strategies

Charleston, SC

Eventus

Santa Rosa, CA

Exact Change

Sacramento, CA

FishHound Expeditions

Girdwood and Willow, AK

Fjallraven Americas

Louisville, CO

Flickr

Aptos, CA

Fontana Sports

Madison, WI

Golden Gate Market

Sausalito, CA

Gossamer Gear Inc.

Austin, TX

GRAYL

Seattle, WA

GU Energy Labs

Berkeley, CA

HEST

Seattle, WA

High Mountain Creative LLC

Missoula, MT

Hipcamp

San Francisco, CA

Human Nature Designs

Denver, CO

HYDAWAY

Bend, OR

Ibex Outdoor Clothing

Brooklyn, NY

Kahtoola, Inc

Flagstaff, AZ

Kaley Alie Art

Fort Collins, CO

Kelty

Broomfield, CO

Klean Kanteen

Chico, CA

LIVSN Designs

Bentonville, AR

LyteYear

Ouray, CO

Mountain Sports Flagstaff

Flagstaff, AZ

NEMO Equipment

Dover, NH

Never Summer Mountain Products

Grand Lake, CO



Nomadix SPC
San Clemente, CA

Northwest River Guides LLC
Oregon City, OR

Oberalp North America
Boulder, CO

Oboz Footwear
Bozeman, MT

Oregon Pack Works
Bend, OR

Orvis
Sunderland, VT

Osprey Packs
Cortez, CO

Outdoor Prolink
Boulder, CO

Pachner & Associates, LLC
Keene, NY

Pack Rat Outdoor Center
Fayetteville, AR

PACT Outdoors, Inc.
Crested Butte, CO

Patagonia
Ventura, CA

Peak Design
San Francisco, CA

Piragis Northwoods Co
Ely, MN

Point to Point Photography
Flagstaff, AZ

Premiums for the Planet
Snowmass Village, CO

Puddle Creative
Portland, OR

Rab Equipment
Louisville, CO

RecPak
Driggs, ID

REECE DESIGN INC
Boulder, CO

REI Co-op
Sumner, WA

Relish Studio
Boulder, CO

RepYourWater
Erie, CO

Revolution House Media
Big Sky, MT

Roads Rivers and Trails
Milford, OH

Rock Fight, LLC
San Marcos, CA



Ruffwear

Bend, OR

Sanitas Sales Group

Lakewood, CO

SCARPA North America

Boulder, CO

Shār Snacks

Austin, TX

Shift Advantage

Portland, OR

Sierra Business Council

Truckee, CA

Simms Fishing Products

Bozeman, MT

Smartwool

Denver, CO

SmugMug

Aptos, CA

SRAM LLC

Chicago, IL

Stio

Jackson, WY

Studio Malt

Chicago, IL

Swen Products Inc.

Duluth, MN

Tailwind Nutrition

Durango, CO

The Base Camp

Helena, MT

The Bergreens LLC

Evergreen, CO

The Forest Group

Lotus, CA

Toad&Co

Santa Barbara, CA

TripOutside

Durango, CO

Verde PR

Durango, CO

Wasatch Adventure Guides

Park City, UT

Western Spirit Cycling

Moab, UT

Whole Health Wisconsin, LLC

Milwaukee, WI

Wild Idea Media

Kalispell, MT

Wild Iris Mountain Sports

Lander, WY

Wild Path Consulting

Livingston, MT



Wild Rye
Ketchum, ID

Yellow Dog Flyfishing
Bozeman, MT