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Save The Boundary Waters Statement on New York Times Magazine Article

Ely, MN - Yesterday, a New York Times Magazine article was published online featuring unfortunate quotes from long-time Ely residents and Wilderness supporters Becky Rom and Reid Carron. Below is a statement on these comments from the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

Statement:

It is no secret that we care deeply and passionately about the Boundary Waters—it is a cherished place not only in our community, but across Minnesota and the nation. We deeply value the peace, the access to nature and the connection to our outdoor heritage that in many ways define us as a people and a community.

But we can be strong and passionate advocates for protecting this place that we love without denigrating other people who may disagree with us. In comments made in a New York Times article published yesterday, certain campaign leaders fell far short of that standard. And for that we truly apologize. Those who disagree with us care about our community every bit as much as we do. Our politics are divided enough and we believe we can all do better—starting with ourselves—at considering other perspectives respectfully even as we fiercely advocate for our values and beliefs.

People who go to work in mines are some of the hardest workers in Minnesota. They rise before the sun, work long hours, and take pride and accomplishment that comes from having produced something of value. That is a not a life to be mocked or derided. For any comments that did so, we are truly sorry.

We believe firmly—based on the science, the nature of the place, and dangerous risks associated with sulfide-ore copper mines, that the Boundary Waters is no place for that kind of mining. Our campaign will continue to work tirelessly to educate and organize others around those values toward the goal of protecting a unique and pristine place.

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