Minnesota Sulfide Mining PETITION

"**PROVE IT FIRST**" CONCERNING METALLIC SULFIDE MINING, ACID MINE DRAINAGE and HEAVY METALS in MINNESOTA's WATER RICH ENVIRONMENT.

WHEREAS:

- The laws of the land established to protect the Superior National Forest, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the Lake Superior watershed and the entire State of Minnesota, are being weakened by legislation, ignored by governmental agencies, and bypassed through land exchanges, and;

- The history of sulfide mining is one of toxic environmental degradation with no evidence that mining for copper, nickel, and other non-ferrous metals in the water-rich environment of northeast Minnesota can be done without harming our water resources, our health, and the ecology of our land, and;

- Exploration and mining, and the separation of land and mineral rights, decreases property values and can result in condemnation or seizure through eminent domain, while mining displaces existing economic development and diminishes the use of the land for other purposes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota enact a "prove-it-first" law similar to Wisconsin's "mining moratorium" law, (Act 171) that requires metallic sulfide mine permit applicants to prove that they can operate safely by citing long-term operation and closure of similar mines, that did not pollute the ground or surface waters with Acid Mine Drainage or heavy metals prior to being issued a permit to mine.

Name	Address and E-Mail	Signature