Recently, the ACA's public policy chief visited key congressional offices on Capitol Hill to make the ACA's position on H.R. 3905 known, to thank Representatives for casting a no vote in the House, and to urge Senators to cast a no vote should the bill come to the floor.

In October, 2017, H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in Superior National Forest, was introduced in the House of Representatives. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is America's most visited Wilderness area, 1.1 million acres of pristine water and unspoiled woodlands. This Boundary Waters, along with Superior National Forest, contains 20% of all freshwater in the entire National Forest system. The area supports and protects critical wildlife habitat, world-renowned recreational paddling experiences, and a $913 million dollar tourism industry that supports 17,000 jobs.

H.R. 3905 opens the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness to the effects of toxic sulfide-ore copper mining by renewing leases on existing mining applications, preventing the declaration of future national monuments, and allowing proposals for future leases. It opens the door for a corridor of industrial development that will destroy aquatic ecosystems, expose residents to increased levels of mercury, and results in the loss of forests and biodiversity. Sulfide-ore copper mining produces giant waste piles, that when exposed to air and water, leach sulfuric acid, heavy metals, and sulfates. In the history of sulfide-ore copper mining, pollution has never been avoided, and just one mine could pollute the Boundary Waters for five hundred years.

The ACA opposes H.R. 3905. The Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness is one of America's most iconic paddling landscapes and we need to make sure our voices are heard. The bill passed out of the House of Representatives by a narrow vote of 216-204, and is currently under review by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Make your voice heard. Write your Senator and let them know how you feel about the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area. Personal notes are highly encouraged. It makes a difference! Share your story, and join the ACA in the fight to preserve one of America's crown jewels of paddling.

Sincerely,

Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief

Making the World a Better Place to Paddle! Since 1880.