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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 25, 2014

Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 5
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Dr. Hedman,

I encourage you to complete a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) on the impacts of sulfide mining on the entire Lake Superior Basin. Lake Superior and its surrounding area is not only iconic in Minnesota, it sustains thriving fishing, shipping, and recreational industries that support jobs throughout the state.

I am concerned about the cumulative impacts of several proposed sulfide mines in the region. In particular, I am concerned about the disparate effects this pollution will have on low-income and tribal communities.

Attached is a letter from fifty-nine organizations in Lake Superior Basin states, requesting a CEA on the impacts of sulfide mining. I support their request for the EPA to use appropriations and authority provided by Congress to complete this assessment, and fully inform citizens on the potential cumulative environmental, health, and economic impacts of these mining projects.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Ellison". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress