**Tamarack (Talon Metals) Sulfide Mine Threat**

**WHERE WOULD IT BE?**
Minnesota has approved 30,000 acres of active mineral leases for nickel, copper, and cobalt found in sulfide ore bodies near Tamarack, about 50 miles west of Duluth.

**SULFIDE MINING THREAT**
Sulfide mining contaminates drinking water, impairs wild rice, and increases mercury contamination of fish, affecting local communities and natural and tribal resources.

**The Future of the Region is at Stake**

**WATERSHEDS**
The Tamarack sulfide mine is proposed at the headwaters of the Tamarack River, which flows to the Mississippi River via Big Sandy Lake and the Kettle River, which flows into the St. Croix River. The St. Croix River is a Wild and Scenic River, which also flows to the Mississippi River.

**LAKE COMMUNITIES**
Homes, cabins, fishing, ricing, boating, and recreation on Big Round Lake, Big Sandy Lake, Lake Minnewawa, and Island Lake are all at risk.

**TRIBAL RESOURCES**
A Tamarack sulfide mine could impact 1837, 1855, and 1854 Treaty resources, including wild rice lakes, wetlands, and fisheries used by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Sandy Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
Why is the Tamarack Mine A Serious Threat?

MASSIVE SULFIDE MINERALIZED ZONE
The Tamarack area contains a massive sulfide mineralized zone with high concentrations of nickel, copper, and cobalt ore and recoverable levels of platinum-group metals. **Higher ore levels mean higher sulfide levels in the rock, increasing risks of sulfate pollution** that harms downstream wild rice, increases mercury contamination of fish, and can leach toxic metals into groundwater (drinking water) as well as surface water.

MINNESOTA’S POOR REGULATORY TRACK RECORD
Minnesota has a poor track record as a regulator of mining pollution. Courts have suspended and reversed PolyMet permits and found that Minnesota agencies failed to limit sulfate pollution under the federal Clean Water Act.

POOR TRACK RECORD OF MINING COMPANIES
Talon Metals is a British Virgin Islands exploration company in a joint venture with the Rio Tinto mining company. Rio Tinto has a national and global history of environmental pollution and has willfully destroyed indigenous cultural resources to maximize mining.

What Can You Do?

- **Sign up with waterlegacy.org** to learn about upcoming events and opportunities to oppose sulfide mine pollution.
- **Visit waterlegacy.org** and search “Tamarack” to find current information.
- **Share what you know** about Tamarack/Talon Metals mine risks with your friends and neighbors. Sulfide mining threatens all major Minnesota watersheds.

Primary Sources:

Need more info? Contact **info@waterlegacy.org** (651-646-8890)