Dear Friends,

It always makes me happy to connect with people whose lives have been enriched by the Boundary Waters and who share a love of this special place. This past year has been full of exciting developments as our fight against proposed copper-sulfide mining has intensified. Taking on two foreign mining giants is no small task and is only possible through the passion and commitment of our supporters.

As new evidence of the Trump administration’s close relationship with the Chilean-owned mining company Twin Metals has come to light, allies in congress, such as Rep. Betty McCollum, have begun to investigate this corrupt, too-cozy-for-comfort relationship. Meanwhile, our lawsuit against the federal government and Twin Metals continues to progress through the courts.

A mere 12 miles to the south of Twin Metals is PolyMet, a mine that threatens the St. Louis River, which flows directly into Duluth and Lake Superior. At one time, PolyMet was the first permitted copper-sulfide mine in Minnesota. Thanks to your commitment to clean water, we have successfully led legal victories that have resulted in the courts invalidating PolyMet’s air pollution permit and their permit to mine.

It’s important that amid all the work, we take time to step back and remind ourselves why we fight so hard for this land and water. It is the call of the loon breaking the stillness of the morning, the scent of cedar, the pull of a trophy lake trout, and stories around a campfire.

A trip to those cold, pristine lakes is a reminder of how important it is that we work to introduce new and diverse groups of people to this rugged beauty. Our work to bring a Boundary Waters curriculum to classrooms across Minnesota and give students from diverse communities the opportunity to experience the life-changing magic of a week in the Boundary Waters, ensures that a new generation of wilderness advocates will treasure BWCA.

As an organization, our strength lies in our members who have been touched by the Boundary Waters and are passionate about keeping it pristine and wild now, and in the future.

Thank you for all you do,

Chris Knoth
Our Programs

No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters

We inspire the future generations of wilderness stewards from all racial, cultural, financial, and geographic backgrounds through this outdoor education program. No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters brings the wonder of the beloved BWCA into classrooms across Minnesota and brings students across Minnesota up to the BWCA.

Our scaffolding approach reaches students on various levels, teaching more about the ecology of the Boundary Waters as well as useful skills for a week in the BWCA. These levels of engagement include learning in classrooms, at local BWCA Days, and on week-long trips in the BWCA.

Thriving Communities and Wilderness

The future of the BWCA is deeply tied to the economic prosperity and wellbeing of the communities that surround the Boundary Waters. We work with local businesses, organizations, and individuals on projects that build thriving communities to ensure people have a stable and viable livelihood. Additionally, Through robust volunteer networks and community partners, we enable, coordinate, and lead trail maintenance crews, even through the most remote areas of the Boundary Waters and support.

Boundary Waters Protection

We advocate for the protection and preservation of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness by raising awareness of threats such as copper-sulfide mining, and engaging and mobilizing citizens. Copper-sulfide mining is the greatest threat to Minnesota’s clean water in decades. The long history of pollution from copper-sulfide mining shows that under current technology, this type of mining presents substantial risks to Minnesota’s environment.
Educational Programs

Our No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters program saw many adaptations during Fiscal Year 2020 as we were all trying to adapt to changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of pivoting this new program to be completely virtual, we made a lot of connections with teachers, students, and new partners. By October of 2020, we had reached more than 4,000 students through our interactive classroom materials online.

Connecting with partners like Project Success, Bolder Options, and Communidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, (better known as CLUES) allowed us to provide engaging alternatives for students at home from cancelled BWCA trips. Fiscal Year 2021 is looking even better, and we will be excited to share progress made in the FY21 Annual Report.

For more information please visit us online:
www.friends-bwca.org/outdoor-education
Leading the Fight Against Copper Sulfide Mining

In Fiscal Year 2020, grew our Citizens Action Network and held a number of meetings with state legislators as well as four meetings with federal legislators. These connections have helped us to put clean water and the Boundary Waters in front of decision makers and expand our citizen outreach.

We also introduced Prove It First legislation, a landmark piece of legislation that would require an applicant seeking to permit a copper-sulfide mine in Minnesota to submit documentation that a copper-sulfide mine operated elsewhere in the United States for at least ten years without polluting air, groundwater or surface water and that the mine has been closed for at least ten years without polluting air, groundwater or surface water. In Fiscal Year 2020, we gained 5 sponsors for the Prove It First legislation.

If the U.S. raised its copper recycling rate to just 50%, it would be the equivalent of producing more copper than would be extracted by five Twin Metals or almost ten PolyMet mines.

An area this beautiful, that has touched so many lives, is worth protecting.
Get Involved

Your passion for wild spaces and clean water keeps the Boundary Waters pristine and wild. Here are some ways you can help keep the Boundary Waters wild for this and future generations.

Become A Member

When you become a member at the Friends of the Boundary Waters you become a part of a community that directly supports our mission to protect, preserve and restore the Boundary Waters Wilderness and the Quetico-Superior ecosystem through a wide range of advocacy, educational, and volunteer programs. We offer multiple membership types, all with their own unique and exciting benefits.

Your membership is active as soon as you join or renew online, or payment is received, and is valid for one year. Your membership information will be sent to you shortly after we receive your gift. Memberships are fully tax-deductible.

Take Action

From our humble beginnings of concerned citizens meeting for coffee and creating the legal framework to protect the wilderness, we have been an organization of people. We hope you will join our community by pitching in to become a member. Join now! We look forward to hearing from you.

Please visit our website or contact our Development and Membership Director, Mike Linnemann at mike@friends-bwca.org for more information.
Volunteer With Us

Your passion for wild spaces and clean water keeps the Boundary Waters pristine and wild. Here are some ways you can help keep the Boundary Waters wild for this and future generations.

Join Our Citizen Action Network

A dedicated group of supporters who take action on a number of fronts to protect the Boundary Waters Wilderness. This includes: writing letters to the editor, calling senators, attending meetings, sharing on social media and more! Signing up is easy and you’ll receive exclusive updates on all the ways you can support clean water legislation and keep the BWCA wild for future generations.

Contact Maya Swope, Outreach Coordinator at maya@friends-bwca.org for more information

Join A Trail Clearing Effort

Spend a few days, a week or more clearing trails and shoring up campsites in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Contact Hudson Ledeen, Community Coordinator in Ely at hudson@friends-bwca.org to learn more

Attend An Event

Throughout the year, the Friends hosts various events for community members and supporters such as Lunch with the Friends webinars, member celebrations, and fundraisers. We invite you to check our website for the most up-to-date events list and to join us.

Visit our website for our newest events at: www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved/attend-an-event
## Audited Statement 2020

**Fiscal Year 2020 October 1, 2019 - September 30th, 2020**

### Support & Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>$1,376,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Grants (restricted)</td>
<td>$91,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions (includes pro-bono legal work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments and Other Income (loss)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,350,345</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services (74%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General (12%)</td>
<td>$240,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising (14%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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### Program Services

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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy (80%)</td>
<td>$1,174,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education (18%)</td>
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<td>Thriving Communities (2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,467,968</strong></td>
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### As of Sept. 30th, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$2,135,639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$146,059</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LEAVE A LEGACY

FRIENDS OF THE BOUNDARY WATERS WILDERNESS

2550 University Ave. W.
Suite 180 South
St. Paul, MN 55114

Staff
Chris Knopf, Executive Director
Alison Nyenhuis, Education Director
Bree Sikorski, Operations Director
Mike Limnemann, Development and Membership Director
Pete Marshall, Communications Director
Scott Beauchamp, Policy and Advocacy Director
David Meier, Digital Communications Manager
Hudson Ledeen, Community Coordinator
Karen Johnson, Grants Manager
Lauren Mitchell, Database Manager
Maya Swope, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Dayley, Data Entry Assistant
Emme Knowles, Legislative Intern

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