

University of St. Thomas

Member Information

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Ted Freese	2021	Economics (veteran)
Aubrey Giesen	2021	Business Law & Compliance
Evan Sibbet	2021	Entrepreneurship
Maddy Morehouse	2020	Business Law & Compliance
Justin Stang	2020	Finance & Economics

Advisor(s): Jason Skirry, Susan Marsnik

Topic: Treasures Above, Riches Below: Proposed mining in the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota

Division: Undergraduate

Audience: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and his Cabinet

Executive Summary

In the Arrowhead region of Northeastern Minnesota an underground copper-nickel mine has been proposed by Twin Metals Minnesota, a subsidiary of mining giant Antofagasta plc. Merely six miles from the proposed mining site and in the same watershed sits the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. As one of the most visited wildernesses in the United States, it spans more than 1,000,000 acres within the Superior National Forest and is home to 1,200 canoe routes, camping grounds, and expansive hiking trails. With an estimated seven billion tons of copper, nickel, and other precious metals, The Iron Range of Northeastern Minnesota has long been a destination for mining, and continues to be today. We will present a risk assessment of Twin Metals Minnesota's plan to mine in the Arrowhead region. While taking into consideration the ethically compromised past of parent company Antofagasta, we will also present the financial implications, legal liability, and ethical issues of all stakeholders. We ask you to consider our arguments, and the great threat the mine poses to this Wilderness. We will provide recommendations that will help develop safe mining and maintain recreation in this beautiful region for years to come.