

August 30, 2017

Honorable Secretary Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Mr. Daniel J. Jiron
Acting Deputy Under Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Via: Electronic Mail

Re: Transmittal of NCLUCBs Application Cancellation Request and USFS/EIS Scoping
Alternative Filings; Meeting Request

Dear Secretary Purdue and Mr. Jiron:

Thank you for the August 24, 2017 acknowledgement of my public testimony, and for informing the Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB) of Secretary Perdue’s intent to pursue a nationwide review of US Forest Service (USFS) land withdrawal applications.

In support of the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) review of the Superior National Forest mineral withdrawal application, and any decisions that will ultimately be made by the Secretary of the Interior or Congress, we are providing documents that have been filed in the public record. Specifically, we have attached our April 17, 2017 request that the Secretary of Interior cancel the withdrawal [application](#),¹ and two detailed [alternatives](#) to be considered once the NEPA EIS Scoping process gets underway.²

NCLUCB understands that that both Secretaries Zinke and Perdue have publicly announced their decision to pursue the procedural, 2-year process mandated by Congress for the Superior National Forest.³ For our part, as affected local governments, we intend to inform this process such that a balanced decision for both the human and natural environments - may result.^{4,5}

As the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior define roles for the NEPA process, and as you prepare the joint agency memorandum required by CEQ regulations in [40 CFR §1501.5\(c\)](#), NCLUCB requests to be integrated, as appropriate into that process.

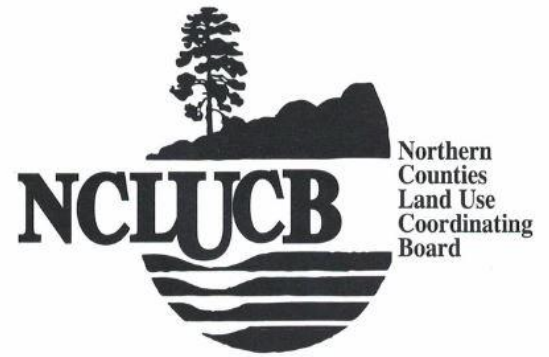
We believe our participation from onset of the NEPA/EIS process can contribute useful information only available from local governments, and to that end request a briefing meeting at the USDA offices on September 27, 2017 at 1:30 pm (preferred) or September 26 at 1:30 pm.

Thank you in advance for your review of our carefully prepared documents and consideration of our request.

Regards,

Rich Sve
Chairman
The Northern Counties Land Use Planning Board

c: Hon. Ryan Zinke – Secretary, DOI
K. Kathleen Benedetto - DOI Special Assistant to the Secretary
K. MacGregor - DOI Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management



Member Counties:

- Aitkin
- Cook
- Itasca
- Koochiching
- Lake
- Lake of the
- Woods
- Pennington
- Roseau

¹ *Notification of Procedural and Statutory Deficiencies; Request for Cancellation of Withdrawal Application and Immediate Termination of Land segregation.* Stillwater Technical Solutions. April 17, 2017.

² *Superior National Forest, Minnesota Comments and Two Alternatives for NEPA Scoping and EIS Analysis.*

³ [43 USC §1714 \(a\)](#). (Pub. L. 94–579, title II, § 202(a) and (f), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2747 and 2749.)

⁴ [42 USC § 4331 \(b\)\(5\)](#).

⁵ [43 USC §1711\(c\)\(9\)](#). Ibid.