CTA Name: Militarizing our national parks and wild areas

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Explainer:

Some Senators are thinking about turning many of our National Parks and Wilderness Areas into Border Patrol encampments – including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Voyageurs National Park and Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota.

Imagine your national-park hike interrupted by Border Patrol vehicles and the beating of helicopter rotor blades above you. Or your quiet Boundary Waters canoe trip spoiled by a motorboat filled with ICE goons demanding to see your citizenship papers. Seem far-fetched?

It won't be if Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) has his way. Lee's meekly titled Border Lands Conservation Act proposes that virtually all federal lands within 100 miles of the Mexican and Canadian borders be turned into Border Patrol encampments. Lee apparently imagines that hordes of illegal immigrants are canoeing and backpacking their way into the U.S. Boundary Waters. Scores of other federally protected lands are at risk. Here's a small sampling:

- Big Bend National Park (Texas)
- Glacier National Park (Montana)
- North Cascades National Park (Washington)
- Isle Royal National Park (Michigan)
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Arizona)

Call to Action

- Congratulate our senators and Representative Betty McCollum (if you live in her district) for their opposition to the Lee bill, and encourage them to keep fighting this measure in a very public way.
- Ask Representatives Angie Craig, Ilhan Omar, and Kelly Morrison to watch for this legislation being introduced in the House of Representatives and to oppose it.

Contact Info:

U.S. Senator Tina Smith:
DC Office Phone: (202) 224-5641

MN Office Phone: (651) 221-1016

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar:
DC Office Phone: (202) 224-3244
DC Office Fax: (202) 228-2186
MN Office Phone: (612) 727-5220

Betty McCollum: (CD4)

- (202) 225-6631 (DC)
- St. Paul: (651) 224-9191

Or use democracy.io to send an email to the three at the same time.
https://democracy.io/#!/

Twin Cities area US House reps:

Ilhan Omar: (CD5)

- (202) 225-4755 (DC Office)
- (612) 333-1272 (Minneapolis office)

Kelly Morrison: (CD3)

- DC: (202) 225-2871

Angie Craig (CD 2)

https://craig.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact/email-me

D.C. (202) 225-2271

Eagan District Office (651) 846-2120

Other Reps: Find your rep here:

https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member

To email: Use Democracy.io to send an email to both Senators and a representative all 3 at the same time.

Sample Script (voice or email):

For Senators Klobuchar and Smith and Rep. McCollum

I am [NAME] and live {community or address.
Optional: I am a member of Indivisible Twin Cities.

Thank you for coming out against Mike Lee's Border Lands Conservation Act (S. 2967).
Add a sentence about why this matters to you. Trips you have taken there? Concerns about the parks? Concerns about lawless federal enforcement actions in remote areas? Others?

I'm appalled to see that not only would the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park be severely damaged by this, but scores of other national parks, national monuments, wilderness area, and other public lands.

For Representatives Angie Craig, Kelly Morrison and Ilhan Omar

I am [NAME] and live {community or address.

Optional: I am a member of Indivisible Twin Cities.

Please announce your opposition to Senator Mike Lee's Border Lands Conservation Act (S.2967). Please watch out for any companion bill introduced in the House.

Add a sentence about why this matters to you. Trips you have taken there? Concerns about the parks? Concerns about lawless federal enforcement actions in remote areas? Others?

I'm appalled to see that not only would the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park be severely damaged by this, but scores of other national parks, national monuments, wilderness area, and other public lands.

Resources:

Minnesota Star Tribune
https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/gop-bill-would-allow-border-patrol-operations-infrastructure-in-the-boundary-waters/ar-AA1PzgkX?ocid=socialshare

Defenders of Wildlife

Crossing the Line: How the Border Lands Conservation Act Threatens Parks and Refuges Nationwide | Defenders of Wildlife

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
SUWA Statement on Senator Lee's Border Lands Conservation Act - 10.3.25

Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources (Republican News)
Lee Bill Fights Back Against Biden's Border Chaos Destroying America's Parks and...