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A RESOLUTION to Oppose the Proposed Open-Pit Iron Mine

Article IX, Section 1 of the Wisconsin State Constitution, also known as the Public Trust Doctrine, states that navigable waters "shall be common highways and forever free," and courts have established that limited encroachments upon these waters may only be permitted if they serve the public interest.

Gogebic Taconite seeks to develop an open-pit iron mine in Ashland and Iron Counties covering over 3,000 acres with 900 million tons of wastes and pits up to 1,000 feet deep.

This project would have massive air and water impacts on the Bad River Watershed, including over 1,000 acres of on-site wetlands, the high-value wetlands of Bad/Kakagon Sloughs, over 75 miles of designated Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters, and the aquifer that supplies well water to homes and businesses in the area.

Mine supporters have not accounted for jobs lost due to reduction of forest crop land, impacts to local agriculture, reduction in tourism, or increasing mechanization of the mining industry, and the company has actively sought to avoid paying taxes and surcharges that might benefit local communities.

Be it RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress finds the Gogebic Taconite mining project does not serve the public interest, as required by the Constitution; that the Congress opposes the proposed Gogebic Taconite mine; and that the Congress hereby directs the Department of Natural Resources to deny any permits to Gogebic Taconite related to their proposed iron mine in the Penokee Hills.

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