



Mining Legislation Will Threaten Wisconsin's Public Health and Environment

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MADISON, WI – Today, Wisconsin state legislative leaders announced the reintroduction of legislation designed to approve a proposed mine in the Penokee Hills. The Midwest Environmental Advocates reiterated their concern for mining proposals that put the public and our environment at risk.

"There is too much at stake for the people of Wisconsin, both in terms of our clean water future and in our tradition of clean, open government, to set aside meaningful public input or the consideration of sound science when pushing through Gogebic Taconite's (GTAC) bill," said Midwest Environmental Advocate's Executive Director, Kimberlee Wright. "The proposed open pit mine would be in one of the most pristine watersheds in the world thanks to conservation work of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa who have lived there for hundreds of years. This would be the biggest iron mine in the country; one would think a project of that scale would receive the highest standard of scientific review with full opportunities for citizen participation as opposed to a warmed-up version of the G-Tac wish list from last session."

During the last legislative session, mining legislation was written by out-of-state industry lobbyists, public hearings were held far away from the people who would be most impacted by mining pollution, and federal environmental laws and treaty rights were ignored. As this year's legislative session begins, we expect to see nearly identical legislation that will advantage corporate mining interests over Wisconsin's drinking water, our sensitive wetlands and even our valuable tourism industry.

"Without contested case hearings that include all parties affected by a proposed mine, federal Clean Water Act enforcement standards, the capacity for citizen suits or meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes on tribal law, the GTAC-written legislation is simply unacceptable to the people of Wisconsin," said Senior Staff Attorney Dennis Grzezinski. "We will review the new legislation as soon as it is introduced to the public."

Today, MEA launched a video with statements from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Leadership about how a proposed mine in the Penokee Hills will threaten their way of life. Watch their stories on YouTube: http://youtu.be/6l6_wRBsVrw

Midwest Environmental Advocates is a public interest organization that uses the power of the law in support of communities fighting for environmental accountability. Learn more about the Midwest Environmental Advocates on the web at midwestadvocates.org, like MEA on [Facebook](#) or follow @MidwestAdvocate on [Twitter](#).

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