

Resolution No. 461 - 16

Opposing the Aquila Resources' Back Forty Proposed Mine

WHEREAS, Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine would be located on the banks of the Menominee River, which empties into Lake Michigan and is one of the largest watersheds in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Menominee River provides a unique habitat for species of special concern such as lake sturgeon and freshwater mussels, which would be negatively impacted by discharges into the water; and

WHEREAS, the potential impacts of the mine include long term leaching of acid-producing wastes into the groundwater and the river; and

WHEREAS, the hazardous wastes generated by the mine would degrade water quality and present risks to human health and the environment in Wisconsin as well as Michigan; and

WHEREAS, potential economic losses including reduction in property values and loss of tourism revenue are not factored into the permitting review process; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this mine will result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, including Native American gravesites and other areas of historical significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Marinette County Board of Supervisors strongly oppose Aquila's Back Forty metallic sulfide mine and urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to deny a mining permit for the Back forty Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp, Wisconsin Legislators representing Marinette County, the County Board Chairs of Florence, Oconto, Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Approved this 20th day of September 2016 by a majority vote of a quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors.

Mark Anderson, Chair

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk

Recommended: Executive Committee – September 14, 2016

AGENDA