

SAFE MINES TO PROTECT OUR WATER

ENSURING SULFIDE MINING IS DONE RIGHT:
PROTECTING OUR LAKES AND RIVERS
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Several new mines are proposed in northern Minnesota that are very different from traditional iron mining. These types of mines have a long history of creating toxic pollution that lasts for decades and forces taxpayers to pay millions of dollars to clean up the mess.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD

Other states have passed laws regulating sulfide mining only *after* their water has been polluted and taxpayers have had to pay for clean-up.

We have **an opportunity to lead the nation**, protecting our resources *before* we have our own disasters.

PREVENT ACID MINE DRAINAGE

When rain hits waste from iron mining, it creates rust. When rain hits waste from sulfide mining, it creates **sulfuric acid**.

The acid corrodes the rock and leaches heavy metals, creating acid mine drainage. Acid mine drainage kills entire ecosystems, makes fish inedible, and **water supplies unsafe to drink**.

Proposed mines are **in the heart of Minnesota's lake country**. Acid mine drainage must not threaten our lakes, rivers, and streams.



Acid mine drainage, Beartrap Creek, MT

A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR CHILDREN

Our woods and waters **make Minnesota a great place to live** and the lake country of northern Minnesota is prized by all.

It is our duty to pass these resources on to the next generation, in as good of shape or better than we inherited.

PROTECT TAXPAYERS

The state must receive adequate financial assurance from mining corporations that will cover costs to close and clean up the mine if the company goes bankrupt.

And those bonds must be bankruptcy-proof, **so taxpayers don't get left holding the bag**.

In this day and age, no company can be counted on to be around to clean up their mine for 40 years. Taxpayers shouldn't have to bail them out if they walk away.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

Brohm Mine, South Dakota: Operated from 1988 to 1999, the mine developed acid mine drainage, despite rock that was less than one percent sulfide and predictions of no pollution. It is now a federal Superfund site, being treated in perpetuity at taxpayer expense.

Zortman-Landusky, Montana: After the mining company went bankrupt, the state assumed costs for clean-up, reclamation and ongoing water treatment, which is estimated to have cost \$33 million, and costly water treatment is expected to be required indefinitely.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

Protect our water and protect taxpayers from getting stuck with clean-up bills.

We want to ensure that mining companies have the **financial means to clean up their pollution, and prove that mines will be cleaned up** after they are closed.

Our goal is modern, model mines that can be operated and closed safely.

*It's what best for Minnesotans,
today and in the future.*