

2016 Caucus Sulfide Mining Resolution

WHEREAS, the clear lakes, clean air, and healthy forests and rivers of Minnesota are emblematic of Minnesota and so much a part of what we as Minnesotans love about our state; and,

WHEREAS, sulfide ore mining results in polluted runoff from mine pits and mine wastes for at least 500 years, if not forever; and,

WHEREAS, sulfide ore mining has never been done in a water-rich environment without polluting surface and/or groundwater; and,

WHEREAS, sulfide ore mining has created taxpayer liabilities across the country when mining companies go bankrupt, leaving pollution behind; and

WHEREAS there is no assurance that Minnesota taxpayers will be protected from long term costs of sulfide-ore mining; and,

WHEREAS, sulfide mining carries the same boom/bust problems of current mining and diversification of the economy of NE Minnesota into other industries will lead to greater stability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the x Party finds that sulfide ore mining is significantly different from taconite mining, has unacceptable environmental impacts, and should not be allowed in the sulfur-bearing rock from the Voyageurs National Park and Boundary Waters to and beyond Lake Superior and the St. Louis and Mississippi River Watersheds.