

PROVE IT FIRST

COMMONSENSE PROTECTION MINNESOTA DESERVES

Photo: Pete Marshall



The Prove It First Bill simply requires that an applicant seeking a permit to open a copper-sulfide mine must prove that such a mine can be operated and closed without causing pollution. Before they put a shovel into the ground, they need to show Minnesotans an example of a copper-sulfide mine that has operated for at least ten years and has been closed for ten years, without causing pollution.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT “PROVE IT FIRST”

- Based on a Wisconsin Law that was in place for nearly 20 years.
- Protects all of Minnesota’s watersheds from this risky type of mining.
- Does not affect permits for iron ore or taconite mines.
- Copper-sulfide mining has never been done in Minnesota and ranks as the most polluting industry in the United States.
- Protects Minnesota taxpayers from being left on the hook for millions of dollars in clean-up and reclamation costs from the pollution produced by these mines.
- The proposed sulfide mines, Twin Metals and PolyMet, would be two of the largest carbon producers in Minnesota, with yearly emissions equivalent to supplying energy to 200,000 homes for one year.
- Economic analysis out of Harvard University shows that copper-sulfide mining would cause longterm harm to the region’s economy, devastating the sustainable wilderness industry that draws visitors from around the world to visit the BWCA and North Shore.



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