

BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O. Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

December 13, 2011

Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

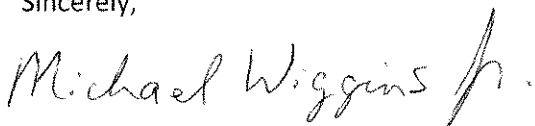
HAND DELIVERED

Independent Economic Analysis Needed to Study the Impact of the Mine Proposed for the Penokees

Dear Governor Walker:

As the government responsible for the health and welfare of the Bad River Tribe, and as a good neighbor to communities surrounding the Chequamegon Bay, we strongly urge you to undertake an independent economic impact study of the proposed mine before signing legislation that drastically changes the law related to mining. We note that the only study of the economic impact of the proposed mine was paid for by Gogebic Taconite. To date, there has been no independent analysis of the short-term and long-term effects of the proposed mine on the region as a whole, the effects on Lake Superior and the public health effects on the people who live in the region. It would be foolhardy to base serious policy decisions on economic information received from only one biased source. When it comes to open-pit mining, we feel that sound science and the principles of fairness and democracy are the prudent path to honoring the people, lands and waters of northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Mike Wiggins, Jr., Chairman

Media Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 13, 2011, Odanah, Wisconsin

Studies conducted on the economies of the mining regions in Minnesota conclude that mining makes a relatively small impact on local economies in mining regions.

Studies conducted on the economies of the mining regions in Minnesota conclude that mining makes a relatively small positive impact on local economies in mining regions. (Powers, 2007.) The approach to thinking about the northern Wisconsin economy that focuses on the assumed role of mining as an economic driver is incomplete.

Reports in Minnesota support the conclusion that:

- 1) Resource prices are unstable, creating uncertainty in employment and wages;
- 2) Out-of-state workers would compete for a limited number of high-paying jobs and may commute long-distances, spending their earnings outside of the local communities;
- 3) The life of a mine is short;
- 4) The labor needs of a mine are constantly decreasing as operations become more efficient;
- 5) The environmental damage associated with mining discourages a diversity of businesses.

Inadequate environmental laws and financial requirements can saddle state governments with permanent damage to the environment and large financial obligations, creating long-term negative economic impacts.

Based upon the data from Minnesota, Bad River makes the following recommendations: undertake an independent analysis of the economic effect of mining, and make the risks of mining transparent to the public.

###END###