

2016-01

PLACE A MORATORIUM ON SULFIDE-ORE MINING IN MINNESOTA

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 has never been done in a water rich environment without polluting surface and/or groundwater; and,

WHEREAS, sulfide-ore mining historically results in polluted runoff from mine pits and mine wastes that persists far beyond the life of the corporation that creates it; and,

WHEREAS, accidental spills with disastrous consequences are not uncommon at sulfide-ore mines and are extremely difficult and expensive to clean up; and,

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

WHEREAS, copper-nickel mining carries the same boom bust problems that plagues the iron mining industry, and does not produce a long-term sustainable economy, and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota rules (6132.3200) require that nonferrous metallic mineral mines are to minimize the release of pollutants and be maintenance free at closure; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota agencies tasked with enforcing mining regulations have failed to require mines to fully meet regulations, and legislative actions are being taken to weaken those regulations; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America finds that sulfide ore mining is significantly different from taconite mining, has unacceptable environmental risks, and should not be allowed in the sulfide bearing rock of Rainy River-Hudson Bay, St. Louis River-Lake Superior, and Mississippi River Watersheds, unless mining methods that are truly protective of our precious waters and maintenance free at closure can be found.

Submitted by W. J. McCabe Chapter of Duluth Minnesota.