

Daniel Iverson

Dear Sirs,

I am a life long Minnesotan with a BS in laboratory medicine in addition to years of experience and a degree in electrical construction and maintenance . Admittedly this by no means qualifies me as an expert in hydrology or chemistry. But I have followed the mining interests in Minnesota closely for several decades and observed the political power these companies have on our representatives and public institutions as well as public opinion. The good old days of mining are gone along with the thousands of good paying jobs and benefits. The contribution of mining to Minnesota's GDP is now less than 1% where as the recreational industry now thriving and growing in northern Minnesota is pumping hundreds of millions of dollars annually into the Minnesota GDP all while providing thousands of dependable jobs. There is now a rapidly increasing demand for skilled labor in northern Minnesota to support this thriving recreational economy as the calling card of Minnesota's pristine lands and waters is drawing a major interest across America and abroad to not just visit but live in an ecologically healthy environment. Quality of life, clean water and air with a diverse abundance of plant and animal life supersedes any momentary economic impact of mining with it's boom and bust and ecological long term costs. My observations tell me there is great risk to Minnesota's future growth and prosperity if our state regulatory agencies and representatives are bribed and bullied into throwing away Minnesota's greatest asset, our clean water and those fragile and irreplaceable ecosystems of northern Minnesota .

You don't need to be a professor of economics or biology to understand that without clean water there is no life. Dollars and stocks can be printed and restored a destroyed ecosystem ,especially one with toxic sulfide to sulfate poisoning the water for centuries ,is in essence gone forever. This decision to codify poisoning of our water should be a matter of the heart , soul and science and not politics or pay days for corporations.

With respect and hope,

Dan Iverson