# Mike Vant

Minnesotans Need Sustainable Economies, Not Throwaway Jobs.

I am a Minnesotan who wants to ensure that our economy and environment are healthy for generations to come.

U.S. Steel complains that complying with the law will create substantial and widespread social impact. But the idea that mining creates jobs is a myth. Even in the Arrowhead, mining accounts for only 6% of employment– just over 4,000 jobs (Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, Region 3: Northeast Minnesota 2024 Regional Profile). In contrast, leisure and hospitality– industries that depend on clean water for fishing, wild rice stands for foul habitat, and a steady flow of visitors who want to see the beauty of Minnesota– account for 11.9% of jobs in the region (Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, Current Employment Statistics). And 100% of all 5.8 million Minnesotans need clean water to drink.

There is more than one way to feed our families. Extractive industries have just one job: to take a non-renewable resource and run. The social and economic impact of granting U.S. Steel's requested variance is real. It incentivizes pollution for profit at the expense of investment in sustainable economies. That's not what Minnesotans need or want. U.S. Steel has a responsibility to pay to clean up its own mess. And because U.S. Steel did not provide written evidence that treatment costs would cause even a slowdown at Keetac, the MPCA should deny its baseless variance request.