

Maria Warwas

Please consider these remarks as prepared for the public hearing in Virginia, MN, on September 3rd. I chose to give my speaking time-slot to another attendee:

My name is Maria Warwas and I hail from Clinton Township.

"More harm than good"— we've all heard that phrase before, and it generally refers to actions taken with good intentions, but without full consideration of the unintended consequences.

I believe "more harm than good" is what we will inevitably face if this unattainable sulfate standard is enforced, whether it be for our mines, our municipalities, our farmers, or anyone else. This touches EVERY ONE of us.

God made one race, the human race. All of you here today are part of my human family, my brothers and sisters. And as such, I implore you to join me in working towards something I think we can all agree on: we want to do more good than harm, not the other way around.

Some people talk about mining profits as if running a profitable business is somehow intrinsically evil. No! We need to speak passionately against this falsehood. The mining done here on the Iron Range has not only provided the steel that our nation and our world needs, it has also put food on our tables, funded our schools and hospitals, and paid for the heat we need to survive these brutal winters.

On a more personal level, my husband's job with US Steel has allowed me to stay home with my babies, homeschool my older kids, purchase all the things we need and even buy some fun stuff. It has empowered us to be generous to our friends and neighbors, and perhaps more importantly, enabled us to be contributing members of society rather than being a burden on our fellow citizens.

I fully trust that we can continue to have healthy wild rice AND thriving industries which bring prosperity to the Range. But I will not choose plants over people, and I will continue to stand against those who fail to take our livelihoods into consideration.