

Benjamin Erickson

As a miner and lover of our beautiful Minnesota environment, I'd like to say the sulfide standard is over the top and economically crushing. The lands of the Iron Range are uniquely beautiful from the mining of the past. Yet with the standards of the past wild rice still grows abundantly in those lakes and water sheds. I've lived on the iron range my whole life and want the water and areas around it clean and pristine. But enforcement of an unsustainable standard doesn't help, in fact it's harm beyond the water. The mining industry already has a ridiculous high standard (as they should) to keep the lands pristine and reclaiming land that is not in use. So to say we don't care about nature, water, or even stuff as little as wild rice is absurd.

Even though I hate the idea of this, eminent domain should apply to this project also. Far more hurt to the community will come if the mining company decides to scrap the mine which would displace its workers, families, and businesses.

I hope you can come to a reasonable solution to this issue. Give our community the ability to do what it does best, take care of ourself and our beautiful environment. As a union member we want the companies to be accountable, that includes their impact on the surrounding environment.

Thank you for your time,

Ben Erickson

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