

Keep Your Word, Governor Granholm

You said...

"Implement a strategy to protect Lake Superior from toxic chemicals, to protect special places in the Lake Superior Basin, and to attract environmentally sustainable business in the basin."

*from "Protecting the Great Lakes"
Granholm Campaign Book, 2002*

The Fact is...

You are breaking your campaign promise to protect the Lake Superior Basin. Protection comes from making Kennecott live by the letter and intent of the law. Deliver on your campaign promise.



You said...

"Michigan has been blessed by a bounty of water that fuels our economy and defines our character. It is our most vital resource, and its preservation and protection is far too important to be left to future generations."

*Governor's Office News Release
February 28, 2006*

The Fact is...

Your DEQ issued a preliminary decision to approve a sulfide mine just 9 miles away from Lake Superior and directly beneath one of its purest tributaries. Are you now prepared to sacrifice that precious water? We need you to protect the U.P. and the Great Lakes.

You said...

"If we're concerned about jobs, let's create jobs that will last."

*The Mining Journal
April 16, 2004*

The Fact is...

This mine's production is slated to last 6-8 years. There is no dispute – these jobs will not last. Is this the solution to our economic woes? Another boom and bust cycle for the Upper Peninsula? Where is your Next Michigan? Only in the Lower Peninsula?

You said...

"I am now directing you to give rigorous and thorough review to Kennecott's permit applications and ensure that they meet each and every aspect of the new regulations..."

*Letter from Governor Granholm to DEQ Director Steve Chester
February 23, 2006*

The Fact is...

Your MDEQ granted a proposed approval to Eagle Project, even though the company did not respond to more than a dozen questions from the MDEQ. Missing were the following and more: requested maps/tables addressing impacts to hydrology, descriptions of the impacts to natural resources, and remediation plans to repair those natural resources. Instead, your MDEQ backed off on their questions. This is not ensuring that they "meet each and every aspect of the new regulations." In fact, in a recent report*, 100% of the mines studied that were near surface water and ground water - like this proposed mine – polluted one or the other 100% of the time. These odds are unacceptable. You allowed your DEQ to ignore this information and Michigan's laws and rules to reach their improper preliminary decision.

**Source: Kuipers, J.R., Maest, A.S., MacHardy, K.A., and Lawson, G. 2006. Comparison of Predicted and Actual Water Quality at Hardrock Mines: The reliability of predictions in Environmental Impact Statements.*

We, the undersigned, call upon you, Governor Granholm, to keep your word and protect the Upper Peninsula and Michigan from the dangers of sulfide mining on the Yellow Dog Plains by requiring your DEQ to deny this inappropriate and deficient permit application. We are joined by more than 10,000 residents who have signed petitions and thousands of others who recognize that Michigan and the Great Lakes are worth more than a few temporary jobs and short-term financial gains for the state. We urge you to consider your legacy and decide whether it will be one of Great Lakes contamination or Great Lakes protection.

*Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
Concerned Citizens of Big Bay
Friends of the Land of Keweenaw
Front 40
Huron Mountain Club
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Land Owners Opposed to Sulfide
Mining
Medical Professionals Opposed to
Sulfide Mining
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan League of Conservation Voters*

*National Wildlife Federation
Northwoods Wilderness Recovery
Save the Wild UP
Sierra Club
Stop Toxic Ore Products
Students Against Sulfide Mining
Upper Peninsula Environmental
Coalition
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve
100 Faith Leaders from Marquette,
Alger, Baraga, & Keweenaw Counties*