



2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 69

July 28, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives STUCK, GENRICH, MURSAU, BERCEAU, BROSTOFF, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, GOYKE, HEBL, MASON, MILROY, OHNSTAD, SHANKLAND, SPREITZER, C. TAYLOR, WACHS and ZEPNICK, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN, CARPENTER, ERPENBACH, LARSON, RINGHAND, RISSER and VINEHOUT. Referred to Committee on Rural Development and Mining.

1 **Relating to:** opposing the development of Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a
2 proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a proposed open pit metallic
4 sulfide mine, would be located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on the banks of
5 the Menominee River, which empties into Lake Michigan and is one of the largest
6 watersheds in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and

7 Whereas, the Menominee River provides a unique habitat for species of special
8 concern such as lake sturgeon and freshwater mussels, which would be negatively
9 impacted by discharges into the river; and

10 Whereas, the potential impacts of the mine include long term leaching of
11 acid-producing wastes into the groundwater and the river; and

12 Whereas, the hazardous wastes generated by the mine would degrade water
13 quality and present risks to human health and the environment in Wisconsin and
14 Michigan; and

1 Whereas, potential economic losses including reduction in property values and
2 loss of tourism revenue are not factored into the permitting review process; and

3 Whereas, the approval of this mine will result in the loss of significant cultural
4 resources of the Menominee Indian tribes of Wisconsin including Native American
5 gravesites and other areas of historical significance; now, therefore, be it

6 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
7 opposes the development of Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a proposed open
8 pit metallic sulfide mine in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, due to its potential
9 negative impacts on the natural resources, public health, and economy of Northern
10 Wisconsin, and urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to deny
11 a mining permit for the project; and, be it further

12 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to
13 Governor Scott Walker, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp,
14 the county board chairs of Florence, Oconto, Brown, Marinette, Kewaunee, and Door
15 counties, the governor of Michigan, and the Michigan Department of Environmental
16 Quality.

17 **(END)**