

AB 22 1

March 4, 1998

State Rep. Gene Hahn
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI INTERDEPARTMENTAL

Dear Gene:

Thank you for your request to have me schedule a hearing before the Assembly Committee on Environment on Assembly Bill 22, which would prohibit the discharge wastewater from sulfide mines into the Wisconsin River or any of its tributaries.

As a member of the committee, you are aware of the extraordinary amount of time the committee has spent on mining issues. Several hearings were held on the mining related legislation and action was taken on several bills to toughen Wisconsin's mining laws. I appreciate your active interest in the mining issue and it should be noted you voted in favor of every measure in committee to toughen Wisconsin's mining laws.

Because of the demands by environmental groups to take action on Senate Bill 3, the so-called Mining Moratorium Bill, it was my priority to have the committee complete action on that legislation. We also completed action on the Mining Environmental Protection Act, tough new mining rules, and other legislation to improve our mining laws. Because the Legislature will be adjourning shortly, I would like to complete action on other important environmental issues.

As a result of this previous action on the mining issue, I will not take any action on AB 22 or any other mining related proposal still pending before the committee.

I expect the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be issued on the proposed Crandon Mine later this year. We will also know more how the new moratorium law may affect the proposed mine. It may be appropriate to review this issue at that time once this information is known.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Marc Duff, Chair
Assembly Committee on Environment