



January 20, 2021

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MI Building Trades Council
Mike Thibault
MI Building Trades Council (Retired)
William Verrette
Gundlach Champion, Inc.

Dear Back Forty Project Team:

On behalf of the U.P. Construction Council, I'm sorely disheartened by the rejection of your Wetlands Permit Application.

Our Labor/Management Council, made up of nearly 3,500 members, fully supports responsible mining such as what Aquila Resources proposes with the Back Forty Project. We realize the positive economic spiral this project would create for the Upper Peninsula. With an initial capital investment of \$250 million and a life of mine payroll estimated to exceed \$280 million, the Back Forty Mine would directly and indirectly create hundreds of jobs, including construction hires, paying solid, family sustaining wages. The project will also contribute greatly to Michigan and local budgets as a major tax and royalty payer.

Mined products, as you know, are everywhere in our daily lives, from beauty products, to transportation and cell phones. The UPCC would prefer these products be mined here, where we have some of the strongest mine regulations there are.

Although we are disappointed with the judge's decision, we urge you to continue your efforts to advance the Project to the operations phase and we pledge our support for the Back Forty Project.

Sincerely,

Tony Retaskie

Tony Retaskie
Executive Director

TR:bc

