

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

Senator McBroom offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express support for mining and the mining
2 industry and encourage the Governor, state agencies, local
3 governments, members of the public, and labor organizations to
4 support mining by taking certain actions.

5 Whereas, Mining provides the raw materials needed to build and
6 manufacture the necessities and conveniences of our society. Nearly
7 every industry and consumer product relies on the materials
8 produced from mining, whether the cars we drive, the roads we drive
9 on, the homes we live in, or the electrical system we rely on; and

10 Whereas, Michigan is blessed with an abundance of valuable
11 mineral resources. Our state's long and diverse geologic history
12 has produced a wide variety of minerals, notably copper, iron,
13 nickel, salt, sand, gravel, and limestone; and

1 Whereas, Mining has played an integral role in Michigan's
2 history and growth. More native copper ore was mined in Michigan's
3 Keweenaw Peninsula from 1845 to 1887 than any other place in North
4 America, and for many years, Michigan produced more than one-half
5 of the nation's supply of copper. In 1844, rich iron ore deposits
6 were discovered in the Upper Peninsula, and from the 1850s to the
7 early 1900s, Michigan was the nation's leader in iron ore
8 production. From 1880 to 1926, Michigan also ranked first or second
9 in the nation in salt production. Michigan's mining industry was a
10 major driver of Michigan's early economy and growth and attracted
11 immigrants from around the world; and

12 Whereas, Men and women throughout the Upper Peninsula and
13 other areas of Michigan are proud of their family history as the
14 hard-working workforce for Michigan's mines. Through an honest
15 day's work, mining provided an opportunity for a good life and a
16 better future for generations. It is an inextricable part of the
17 culture and heritage of the Upper Peninsula; and

18 Whereas, Mining continues to be an important piece of
19 Michigan's economy and economic future. Within the United States,
20 Michigan remains a leading producer of gravel, sand, limestone,
21 cement, salt, nickel, and iron ore. Mineral resources in the Upper
22 Peninsula, including gold, silver, and zinc, are attracting new
23 interest from a number of national and international companies. An
24 able-bodied workforce is ready and willing to renew the proud
25 heritage of mining in Michigan; and

26 Whereas, The transition towards renewable energy and transport
27 systems that are protective of the environment requires a complex
28 mix of metals, such as copper, nickel, silver, cobalt, rare earths,
29 and lithium. The responsible mining of these metals is fundamental

1 to the sustainability of the renewable energy transition. Demand
2 for these metals is expected to increase dramatically, and Michigan
3 is well-positioned to help meet this enduring demand; and

4 Whereas, Modern-day mining can provide the raw materials we
5 need while limiting impacts on the environment and communities. The
6 state of Michigan has adopted strong laws that protect the
7 environment but still allow for a vibrant mining industry. In 2004,
8 Governor Jennifer Granholm stated regarding new laws on nonferrous
9 metallic mineral mining, "These new regulations give us some of the
10 toughest, if not the toughest, mining regulations in the country.
11 They ensure the economic development potential of mining in our
12 state, while being mindful of protecting our environment."
13 Environmental regulations and community expectations ensure that
14 today's mining is carried out safely and responsibly in co-
15 existence with the environment so local communities, families, and
16 institutions can prosper and grow; and

17 Whereas, There is an inherent contradiction when people oppose
18 mining in our state for environmental reasons but wish to continue
19 to reap the benefits of mined materials. Whether the everyday
20 products and services that utilize mined materials or the
21 transition to new technologies dependent on the materials produced
22 from mining, it is morally wrong to demand and enjoy the rewards of
23 mining but expect any impacts – no matter how well regulated and
24 mitigated – to be borne by others; and

25 Whereas, Mining supports local communities and people, often
26 in areas that are in dire need of economic opportunity. Mining
27 companies investing in Michigan create well-paying jobs and give
28 back to their communities. The taxes generated from these
29 companies, through the Rural Development Fund, support local

1 schools, roads, and other critical services and infrastructure; and

2 Whereas, The state of Michigan needs to continue to build a
3 strong, diverse, and resilient economy across all regions of the
4 state. A robust mining industry remains an essential part of that
5 goal, providing jobs, attracting investments, generating tax
6 revenue for state and local economies, and helping ensure
7 opportunity and a bright future for all Michiganders; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 Resolved by the Senate, That we express support for mining and
10 the mining industry in Michigan and encourage members of the public
11 and labor organizations to present well-informed support for mining
12 projects to state and local regulators; and be it further

13 Resolved, That we encourage the Governor, state agencies, and
14 local governments to support mining by welcoming new opportunities
15 to expand mining in Michigan, utilizing our robust laws to protect
16 the environment and allow mining projects to move forward, and
17 working with investors to develop needed infrastructure; and be it
18 further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the
20 Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties, the
21 Michigan Townships Association, and the Michigan Municipal League.