Message

From: Citizen Name / Ex. 6
Sent: 6/27/2018 12:27:03 PM
To: Kaplan, Robert [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=165b99dc02954540911797ba748d7566-RKaplan]
Subject: Defend the Menominee River from harmful sulfide mining

Director Grether

I am writing to urge you to reject the pending wetland impact permit submitted by Canadian-owned Aquila Resources Inc. that would create the Back Forty Project in Menominee County, Michigan. The proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine located adjacent to the Menominee River would pose a significant threat to the natural and cultural resources of the entire Great Lakes region. Specifically, there would be an imminent threat of sulfuric acid leaching harmful heavy metals including copper, cadmium, arsenic, lead and mercury, and creating acid mine drainage. Groundwater, rivers, and ultimately Lake Michigan would become contaminated if acid mine drainage were to seep into surface and groundwater, posing a significant danger to the regional economy, residents, fish and other aquatic life.

The largest watershed in the Upper Peninsula, and one of the largest within the Lake Michigan Basin, the Menominee River and its tributaries drain over 4,000 square miles in Michigan and Wisconsin. The river provides habitat for walleye, pike, trout and lake sturgeon, and the small mouth bass fishery is regarded as one of the best in North America. The Menominee provides critical natural and economic benefits to nearby communities in both Michigan and Wisconsin. The river is particularly important to the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, who revere the river as integral to their creation. Sacred burial mounds are within the footprint of the proposed mine site.

It is due to the serious environmental and cultural threats posed by the Back Forty Project that American Rivers has listed the Menominee River as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2017.

I stand with eight Native American Tribes, the Superior Watershed Partnership, American Rivers, numerous local and regional conservation and community organizations, as well as the thousands of concerned residents that oppose the proposed mine. Please consider my request to deny Aquila's pending wetland permit application (Parts 303, 301, 31), and prevent the creation of the Back Forty mine.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

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