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**CONTACT:** Kennan Wood, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Mining Association  
kwood@wimining.com  
(608) 444-9546

**Wisconsin Mining Association applauds Assembly's passage of iron mining bill**  
*Statewide group calls for Senate to quickly approve measure*

[MADISON] The Wisconsin Mining Association (WMA) congratulates the Assembly for passing Assembly Bill 426 (AB 426), which regulates permitting and operations of ferrous (iron) mining in Wisconsin. The WMA is now urging the Senate to act quickly on passage of a similar bill that provides a reasonable regulatory framework, protects the environment and helps to protect and create jobs in Wisconsin.

"This bill is long overdue, and we applaud the Assembly for approving it. Now it's on to the Senate where we call for swift passage so that Wisconsin can move forward with needed job creation," said Tim Sullivan, former president and CEO of Bucyrus and now chairman of the WMA. "Wisconsin's Gogebic iron ore deposit could produce thousands of good jobs, give our economy a welcome boost and generate millions of dollars for essential local government services, schools and roads. The bill continues Wisconsin's commitment to public safety and stringent environmental standards, while improving Wisconsin's ability to compete for jobs, businesses and investors."

The Assembly-approved version of the bill includes amendments that expand local tax payments to 60 percent of state revenue collected in connection with any iron mine, increase the cap on application fees to \$2 million and provide additional flexibility to the DNR when weighing overall benefits of the mine.

WMA urges the Senate to follow the Assembly's lead and show its support of job creation, economic prosperity and environmental stewardship with prompt approval of similar legislation.

"This bill is about creating jobs *and* protecting the environment," said Bill Stutz, chairman of the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the WMA Board, "That means there's a win here for everyone, and there is no reason why the Senate can't act quickly on similar legislation."

The Wisconsin Mining Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) foundation whose goals include enhancing public awareness of, and appreciation for, the important role mining has played in Wisconsin's past; the critical role it plays in Wisconsin's current economic stability; and the massive potential it holds for creating good jobs and re-energizing the state's economy in years to come.