



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For more information, contact:

Raj Shukla, Executive Director
River Alliance of Wisconsin
rshukla@wisconsinrivers.org
608-257-2424 ext.115

POLL: Voters want to keep existing protections from mining pollution

River Alliance of Wisconsin conducted a poll (MoE +/- 3.6) of 739 Wisconsin voters from August 4-6, 2017, to gauge public opinion on elements on both Foxconn and then-anticipated mining legislation. Previously released results showed wide distrust of industry claims on Foxconn. Newly-released results show that voters want to guard our waters from mining industry executives.

- **72%** of voters want to keep “Prove it First” protections from mining pollution
- **50% do not believe** “streamlined or eliminated environmental regulations will create more mining jobs and help the Wisconsin economy.” Less than a third of voters (32%) agree
- **64%** believe weakened water protections pose too much risk of exposing families to chemical byproducts of sulfide mining, like cyanide and sulfuric acid

Senator Tom Tiffany says his newly released mining legislation is about [“the dirt of America’s future.”](#) (Wisconsin State Journal, August 18, 2017) We aren’t sure what that means. But we suspect he did not speak to voters while he and industry lobbyists crafted a bill that risks the health of Wisconsin waters. Mining companies got a lot more leeway to pollute while they profit from our natural resources. The bill:

- Eliminates “Prove It First” sulfide mining law, created with bipartisan support decades ago
- Limits public oversight and corporate accountability over use of public resources
- Green-lights risky mines

River Alliance of Wisconsin Executive Director Raj Shukla said, “Mining lobbyists and out-of-touch politicians appear to be the only people in favor of ditching protections that have kept our waters safe for decades. This bill threatens local real estate, restaurants and taverns, recreational tourism, and agriculture so that foreign-owned mining companies can profit. It’s not smart, it’s not wanted and it’s dangerous. The legislature should bury this mining bill.”

About the River Alliance of Wisconsin:

Formed in 1993, River Alliance of Wisconsin is a statewide non-profit, non-partisan citizen advocacy organization that empowers people to protect and restore Wisconsin waters. The organization’s membership includes more than 2,500 individuals and businesses and more than 80 local watershed groups - one of the largest memberships of statewide water groups in the country. For more information, visit www.wisconsinrivers.org.



Wisconsin Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Scott Walker's job performance?

Approve 41%
Disapprove 53%
Not sure 6%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Wisconsin State Legislature is doing?

Approve 33%
Disapprove 51%
Not sure 15%

Q3 The Wisconsin Legislature is also considering a repeal of the "Prove It First" sulfide mining law, created with bipartisan support over twenty years ago. Since then, it has protected Wisconsin's waters by requiring that any mining companies who want to operate a sulfide mine in Wisconsin must demonstrate that they've successfully done so elsewhere, without polluting. Do you support or oppose keeping Wisconsin's existing Prove It First sulfide mining law?

Support 72%
Oppose 18%
Not sure 11%

Q4 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: streamlined or eliminated environmental regulations will create more mining jobs and help the Wisconsin economy.

Agree 32%
Disagree 50%
Not sure 18%

Q5 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: weakened water protections will expose Wisconsin families to unacceptable risks from chemical byproducts of sulfide mines like sulfuric acid and cyanide.

Agree 64%
Disagree 21%
Not sure 15%

Q6 In the 2016 presidential election, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Hillary Clinton, Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson, Green Party candidate Jill Stein, or someone else?

Donald Trump 44%
Hillary Clinton 43%
Gary Johnson 4%
Jill Stein 1%
Someone else 8%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man 47%

Q8 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent or a member of another party, press 3.

Democrat 32%
Republican 32%
Independent / Other 36%

Q9 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 89%
African-American 7%
Other 4%



Q10 If you are 18-45 years old, press 1. If 46-65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3.

<i>18 to 45</i>	31%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	28%