

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Student Government Association
Student Body

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October 12, 2017

The student body of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are writing to you in regards to the Industrial Acid Mining Bill, Senate Bill 395. Wisconsin's "Prove it First" law (1997 Wisconsin Act 171) has protected our water, land, wildlife, and people from metallic sulfide mining for more than twenty years. In this time period, no metallic sulfide mine has met the established requirements of the "Prove it First" law.

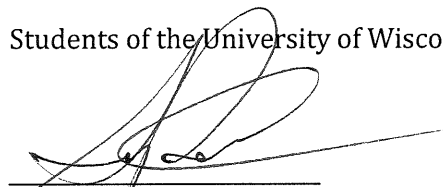
The Environmental Protection Agency has called sulfide mining the most toxic industry in America. The most concerning potential consequence is long term seeping of acid-producing waste into ground and surface waters. This toxic waste would degrade water quality and present risks to human health and the environment in Wisconsin.

The potential economic losses from acid mine drainage include reduction in property values and loss of tourism revenue, as well as degraded groundwater for commercial and agricultural use. In fact, mining communities are noted for high levels of unemployment, slow rates of growth of income and employment, high poverty rates, and stagnant or declining populations.


Five sites throughout central and northern Wisconsin, including one on the Wisconsin River watershed, would be open to metallic sulfide mining. The Industrial Acid Mining Bill (SB395) would negatively impact the residents of Stevens Point. Overturning the "Prove it First" law and removing protections that cause mining companies to be accountable to state and local governments and Wisconsin citizens would be a detriment to Wisconsin. We as students at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point urge you to vote against Senate Bill 395.

Sincerely,

Students of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



Sean Piette
Student Body President
Student Government Association



Nellie DeLain
Speaker of the Senate
Student Government Association