



# MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT 2014 YOUTH CONFERENCE ON STATE ISSUES

## COMMITTEE: Natural Resources

### ***RESOLUTION***

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the controversial nature of mining, including potential negative environmental impacts, beneficial economic growth, and prosperity for all Minnesota citizens,

Acknowledging that the development of mining in northern Minnesota will have widespread economic benefits in all parts of the state,

Aware of the potential consequences of sulfide mining, including but not limited to: unwanted water and chemical runoff, harm of the fragile BWCA ecosystem, and undelivered economic benefits,

1. Affirms current approval processes for sulfide mines in the state of Minnesota,
2. Recommends that companies interested in pursuing sulfide mining projects front a financial package that covers potential damage costs, negative community impacts, and exit strategies,
3. Directs the creation of a technical council that consists of representatives from companies that are developing mine projects, Minnesota state citizens, and non-profit organization/environmental conservation representatives, with the goal of promoting integrity and oversight into protecting the environment while ensuring economic benefit and prosperity,
4. Further proclaims that a majority of those employed with such projects be from the local community, so as to encourage the goal of maximum local and community benefit,
5. Observes the premier nature of the state's regulations on mining, the option of variances shall be forbidden in regard to all environmental impacts and opportunities for community input.