

MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES

Resolution No. 001-17

Opposition to the proposed Back Forty Mine Project

- WHEREAS,** The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing the thirty-three (33) federally recognized tribes and four (4) intertribal organizations in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** Aquila Resources, Inc., (“Aquila”) a Canadian based company, is seeking approvals from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to mine gold, zinc, copper, silver and other minerals in Lake Township, Michigan; and
- WHEREAS,** The mining project known as the “Back Forty Mine Project” is a proposed open pit mine within 150 feet of the Menominee River, the largest river system in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a major Lake Michigan tributary that forms the Wisconsin-Michigan border and flows into Green Bay; and
- WHEREAS,** The mouth of the Menominee River is recognized as the place of origin of the Menominee People, and the Menominee River including the area of the proposed Back Forty Mine is historically and culturally significant to the Menominee people due to the existence of cultural properties by way of former villages, burial sites, mound groups, funerary objects, raised agricultural fields and garden beds; and
- WHEREAS,** Aquila proposes to utilize open-pit mining extraction and removal processes which have historically caused detrimental impacts to the water, environment, wildlife, and animals; and
- WHEREAS,** The Great Lakes and its tributaries including the Menominee River are relied upon for clean water, religious practices, fishing, economic development, agriculture, and tourism; and
- WHEREAS,** The Great Lakes are a valuable water resource representing 20 percent of the world’s fresh surface water, 95 percent of the United States fresh surface water and 84 percent of North America’s surface fresh water; and
- WHEREAS,** Adverse impacts of the proposed mine would not be geographically limited to the State of Michigan, but would be felt by Wisconsin residents, Tribal Nations, and other Great Lakes users; and
- WHEREAS,** The proposed Back Forty Mine poses significant and detrimental threats to the area’s environment, water, wildlife, animals and places of historic, religious and

cultural significance to the Menominee people; and

WHEREAS, the threats associated with the proposed Back Forty Mine far outweigh the short term benefits associated with the proposed Back Forty Mine and justify denial of the permits; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes hereby declares its support for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in its efforts to protect culturally significant properties, threatened by the proposed mine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes hereby declares its support for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and its allies, in their efforts to protect the Menominee River environment, water, and wildlife, threatened by the proposed mine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes hereby declares its opposition to the proposed Back Forty Mine.

CERTIFICATION

As President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, I do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution No.001-17 was passed on March 22, 2017, at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 22 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.



MAST President