



NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION
Advancing Excellence for All Native Students

March 31, 2017

Chairman Gary Besaw
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135

Re: Support for Efforts to Protect Sacred and Culturally Significant Sites

Dear Chairman Besaw:

On behalf of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), I write to support the people of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in their efforts to protect sacred and culturally significant sites as well as the ecosystem impacted by the proposed footprint of the Back Forty Mine Project.

As the national advocate for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students, NIEA and our more than 2,000 members, help to advance comprehensive academic and cultural education opportunities for Native children throughout the United States. As such, ensuring that our students can learn their language, culture, traditions, and histories is one of NIEA's top priorities for Native children.

NIEA supports tribal efforts to preserve sacred and culturally significant sites for the education of Native generations to come. Native students with access to education grounded in their culture, language, history, and traditions are more likely to succeed in the classroom and beyond. For generations, Native peoples have retained a cultural and spiritual relationship with their ancestral lands. Culturally significant sites connect Native students to the history, culture, and traditions of their people. In this way, sacred sites are critical for the success of Native students.

For more information or inquiries, please contact Ahniwake Rose, NIEA's Executive Director, at 202-847-0033 or arose@niea.org.

Sincerely,

Yatibaey Evans
President

National Indian Education Association
1514 P Street, Suite B Washington, DC 20005
Ph. (202) 544-7290 Fax (202) 544-7293
Email: NIEA@niea.org
NIEA.org