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**MENOMINEE INDIAN
TRIBE OF WISCONSIN**

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Statement from the Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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Earth Day: Menominee Indian Tribe Applauds Conservation Group Naming Menominee River to Top 10 Most Endangered List

(KESHENA, WI) – In recognition of Earth Day, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin applauds American Rivers, a Washington, D.C.-based conservation group, for naming the Menominee River to its 2017 America's Most Endangered Rivers List. Each year, the organization names the Top 10 endangered rivers to its list.

American Rivers named the river to the endangered list because of the proposed Back Forty Mine, which is planned to be an open pit metallic sulfide mine located 150 feet from the banks of the Menominee River, near Lake Township, Michigan. If completed, the acid mine drainage from the tailings, waste rock stockpiles and open pit, threaten to permanently devastate and forever change the health of the region's ecosystem.

"The Menominee Tribe views the proposed project as a dangerous and irresponsible threat to our cultural resources and the Menominee River ecosystem. The Tribe applauds American Rivers for bringing the endangerment of the Menominee River to the forefront nationally," stated Menominee Tribal Chairman Gary Besaw.

The 120-mile long river separates northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is one of the largest watersheds in the Great Lakes drainage basin. The Menominee River drains into the Green Bay of Lake Michigan at Marinette, Wisconsin / Menominee, Michigan.

The proposed Back Forty Mine is a project of Aquila Resources, Inc., a Canadian development stage company. Aquila plans to mine ore (copper, gold, silver and zinc) at the proposed site.

The Menominee Tribe seeks to halt the final permit needed for Aquila to begin operations. The company has already received three of four permits from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ).

For more information on Menominee's efforts visit www.noback40.org.

About the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

The Menominee Tribe, a federally recognized American Indian tribe, based in Keshena, Wisconsin. The Menominee Tribe is indigenous to the territory to what is known as Wisconsin, upper Michigan and parts of Illinois. The Tribe's sacred place of origin exists with its 1836 treaty territory, at the mouth of the Menominee River, located in the border cities of Menominee, Michigan and Marinette, Wisconsin. Because of its close historical ties to the Menominee River, there are significant sacred sites on the river.

For more information, please contact Melissa Cook, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, 715-799-5114 ext. 1263 or email mcook@mitw.org.

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