MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2026

Member Present
Quentin L Messer, Jr.

Members Joined Remotely
Britany Affolter-Caine
Wesley Eklund
Susan Corbin
Jeffrey Dokho
Dimitrius Hutcherson
Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich)
Alissa Roath
Lynda Rossi
Susan Tellier
Lance Wilkinson (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks)

Absent
Dan Meyering
Leon Richardson

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mr. Messer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in person in the Lake Michigan Conference Room at the MEDC headquarters building in Lansing.

Mr. Messer introduced Ms. Davenport, MSF Administrator, who conducted the attendance call.

Chairman Messer reordered the agenda to move the Consent Agenda to follow "Develop Attractive Places" on the agenda.

Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine joined the meeting virtually at 9:03 a.m.

Jeffrey Dokho joined the meeting virtually at 9:04 a.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Davenport explained the process for in-person members of the public to participate. Public comment was had.

Jeffrey Dokho left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Pursuant to the MSF Public Comment Policy, Chairman Messer moved the Virtual Public Comment Period to end of the meeting agenda at 11:00 a.m.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Davenport stated that communications were shared with the MSF Board via email on Friday, August 21st, and Monday, August 24th.

Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Chair of the MSF Policy and Planning Subcommittee, and Dimitrius Hutcherson, Chair of the MSF Finance and Investment Subcommittee, provided updates on MSF Subcommittee activities in August.

Lynda Rossi left the meeting at 10:51 a.m. due to connection issues.

IV. ATTRACT, RETAIN, AND GROW BUSINESS

a. **Resolutions 2026-082 & 2026-083 Copperwood Mine Project Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant Awards**

Michelle Grinnell and Christin Armstrong provided the Board with information on the requested action. The request involves the consideration of a resolution to approve a Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) Grant in the amount of $44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc. and $5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission.

Following discussion, Quentin L. Messer, Jr. motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-082 to approve the SSRP Grant to Copperwood Resources, Inc. Susan Corbin seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 7 ayes; 2 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Wesley Eklund, Susan Corbin, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Lance Wilkinson (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached); Nays: Susan Tellier, Alissa Roath; Recused: None.

Following discussion, Michael B. Kapp motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-083 to approve the SSRP Grant to the Gogebic County Road Commission. Quentin L Messer, Jr., seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Wesley Eklund, Susan Corbin, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Lance Wilkinson (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Alissa Roath, Susan Tellier; Nays: None; Recused: None.

Dimitrius Hutcherson left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

V. DEVELOP ATTRACTIVE PLACES

a. **Resolution 2026-084 Billinghurst Apartments, LLC – 69 W. Willis: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Other Economic Assistance Loan**
Annie Mendoza, Community Development Manager for Region 10, presented the Board with information regarding the requested action. The request involves consideration of a resolution to approve a Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP) Other Economic Assistance Loan Participation in the amount of up to $1,839,647 to Billinghurst Apartments, LLC.

Following discussion, Quentin L. Messer, Jr. motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-084 to approve the MCRP Loan. Alissa Roath seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Wesley Eklund, Susan Corbin, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Lance Wilkinson (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Alissa Roath, Susan Tellier; Nays: None; Recused: None.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2026-085, Approval of Consent Agenda Items
Mr. Messer asked if there were any questions from Board Members regarding items under the Consent Agenda. There being none, Quentin L Messer, Jr. motioned for approval of the following:

a. July 28, 2026, MSF Meeting Minutes
b. Bridge and Stocking, LLC: CRP Amendment #5 **2026-086**
c. Grand Rapids Urban Market Holdings, LLC: CRP Amendment #11 **2026-087**
d. Marquette Vault, LLC: Approval of TIF Phase 1 Trestle Hotel **2026-088**
e. iSource Worldwide, LLC: BDP Loan Repayment Write-Off Request **2026-089**
2020 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Projects **2026-090**

Quentin L. Messer, Jr. motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-085 to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Wesley Eklund, Susan Corbin, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Lance Wilkinson (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Alissa Roath, Susan Tellier; Nays: None; Recused: None.

VII. INFORMATIONAL

Mr. Messer noted that the Michigan Strategic Fund Delegation of Authority Report from July 1, 2026, to July 31, 2026, was included in the meeting packet. There were no questions regarding the report.

VIII. VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Davenport explained the process for virtual members of the public to participate. Virtual public comment was had.

Alissa Roath left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Susan Tellier left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

A quorum of the Board was lost at 12:07 p.m.

The Virtual Public Comment Period ended at 12:45 p.m.

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
ACTING DIRECTOR

January 3, 2023

Ms. Rhonda Bishop
Board Relations Liaison
Michigan Strategic Fund Office
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Ms. Bishop:

I hereby confirm and ratify my designation of Michael B. Kapp, Administrator, Michigan Department of Transportation, as the person authorized and empowered to act in my stead for Michigan Strategic Fund meetings that I am unable to attend.

Sincerely,

Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.
Acting Director

cc: M. Kapp
Executive File

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS
STATE TREASURER

June 2, 2026

Natalie Davenport
Michigan Strategic Fund Administrator
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Re: Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meeting and Michigan Strategic Fund Finance and Investment Subcommittee Designees for Treasurer Eubanks

Dear Ms. Davenport:

I hereby designate Lance Wilkinson, Andrew Lockwood, and Amber Westendorp to attend all Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meetings and Michigan Strategic Fund Finance and Investment Subcommittee meetings that I am unable to attend in 2026.

If you need anything additional, please contact Kara Kabia at (517) 275-0646.

Sincerely,

Rachael Eubanks

Rachael Eubanks
State Treasurer

Cc: Lance Wilkinson
Eric Bussis
Andrew Lockwood
Amber Westendorp

August 18th, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Highland Copper Company – Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

The decline of our area's economy with the closure of White Pine Mine 30 years ago, Ontonagon Paper mill a few years later, and more recently the closure of the prison in Marenisco, has left a significant gap in the ability of the residents to secure family-sustaining jobs. This is evidenced by the population decline and the increase in the average age of residents. The Copperwood Mine Project will provide a wind of change and significant improvement to the economy of the area.

We are providing this letter to express our support for the Copperwood Mine Project. As an active workforce development entity that serves the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we support the development of a safe, modern, and environmentally and socially responsible mine in our region. We understand the need for copper in this age of transition to a lower carbon economy and hope that Michigan, through its support of the Copperwood Mine Project, can become a leader in this area by locally extracting copper, a metal critical to the manufacturing of technologies supporting this transition.

In conclusion, we support Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project that will be transformative to our local and regional economy and accelerate our return to a thriving area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter or to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Debb Brunell

Debb Brunell, CEO
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
906-482-6916
dbrunell@upmichiganworks.org

GOGEBIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

E4946 Jackson Road
Ironwood, Michigan 49938

(906) 307-1200
richards@gogebic.edu

August 18, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, Ml 49855

RE: Support of Highland Copper Company — Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

We are providing this letter to express our support for the Copperwood Mine Project. As an institution of higher education in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we support the development of a safe, modern, and environmentally and socially responsible mine in our region. We understand the need for copper and hope that Michigan, through its support of the Copperwood Mine Project, can become a leader by locally extracting copper, a metal critical to the manufacturing of technologies instrumentation.

We believe that Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project will be transformative to our local and regional economy, and it will assist us in returning to a thriving economic community.

Sincerely,

Richard Shrubb

Richard G. Shrubb, PhD
Interim President
Gogebic Community College

gogebicBOLD

Calumet
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

906.337.1305
25830 Depot Street · Calumet, MI 49913
www.calumetelectronics.com

August 19, 2026

Mr. Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

Re: Letter of Support, Highland Copper's Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Marty:

On behalf of Calumet Electronics Corporation, I am writing to express our strong support for Highland Copper's Copperwood Mine project in Gogebic County. For more than 58 years, Calumet Electronics has designed and manufactured advanced printed circuit boards from our facility in Calumet, in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula. We are the only HUBZone-certified printed circuit board and organic substrate manufacturer in the United States, where our boards are engineered into the mission-critical systems the nation depends on most from satellites, unmanned systems, ground vehicles, and submarines to medical devices, the power grid, and the communications infrastructure that underpin American life.

Copperwood also matters enormously to the region Calumet Electronics calls home. Gogebic County and the surrounding Western U.P. have absorbed the closures of the Ojibway Correctional Facility, the Waupaca Foundry in Ironwood, and Ontonagon's only hospital, alongside population and school-enrollment losses that few other regions in Michigan have experienced. Copperwood is projected to create roughly 300 construction jobs and 380 permanent operating positions, along with the road, power, and broadband improvements the region needs to support any employer. A stronger, more populated Western U.P. means a deeper regional labor pool, more resilient infrastructure, and a healthier regional economy, all of which benefit Calumet Electronics as we compete nationally for skilled tradespeople and engineers while working to keep those jobs rooted in the U.P.

While that impact is critically important to the region, we also support Copperwood because of what it means for our national security and the health of America's advanced manufacturing base. Copper is foundational to everything we manufacture. Every board we produce depends on a stable, domestic supply of high-purity copper, and that dependency is only growing as demand for advanced electronics accelerates across defense, medical, and critical infrastructure sectors alike. Today, the United States imports the majority of its refined copper, leaving manufacturers like Calumet Electronics and the mission-critical supply chains we serve exposed to foreign price volatility and geopolitical disruption. The Copperwood Mine represents exactly the kind of domestic resource investment needed to secure that supply chain here at home, in the same region where copper mining built the industrial foundation of the Keweenaw Peninsula generations ago.

That foreign dependency is a vulnerability our adversaries understand well, and it shows up directly in the cost, lead time, and availability of the materials our industry needs to build the boards that go into American weapons systems, aircraft, and communications networks.

In 2025, the federal government formally designated copper as a critical mineral, and we agree with that determination. Copperwood is fully permitted and stands as one of the very few near-term paths to new, large-scale domestic copper production anywhere in the United States. Calumet Electronics understands what it means to be asked to help close a critical gap in the defense industrial base: In 2023, the Department of Defense awarded us $39.9 million to expand domestic production of High-Density Build-Up substrates for radar and communications systems, citing the need to strengthen the printed circuit board and advanced packaging supply chain that underpins America's warfighting edge. Copperwood and Calumet Electronics sit at opposite ends of that same supply chain: one produces the raw copper, the other turns it into finished boards. However, advancing this project would let Michigan's Upper Peninsula anchor more of that chain domestically, shortening lead times, reducing our exposure to foreign supply shocks, and reinforcing the resilience of the defense industrial base we are proud to be part of.

Calumet Electronics stands ready to support Copperwood's advancement in whatever way is useful, and we look forward to the day we can source the copper for our boards from just down the road in Gogebic County.

Sincerely,

Stephen Vairo

President & Chief Executive Officer
Calumet Electronics Corporation

From:	Jennifer Ahonen
To:	Vicki Schwab (MEDC)
Subject:	Michigan Strategic Fund - Copperwood Mine Project
Date:	Friday, August 21, 2026 1:01:52 PM
Attachments:	2023-11-LET-Wakefield Township Resolution - Copperwood.pdf

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

The Wakefield Township Board approved a unanimous resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company on November 7th, 2023. Resolutions support certain opinions and policy positions and are recorded in our official meeting minutes once approved. This resolution of support, along with others passed previously, has not been rescinded. The Township Board members have remained the same since 2020 and continue to support the project and their continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ahonen
Wakefield Township Clerk

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Jennifer Ahonen
Wakefield Township Clerk
Telephone (906) 364-0717
clerk@wakefieldtownship.com
Website: wakefieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION 2021-27

SUPPORT FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Bessemer, duly held on October 9th, 2023, duly held in the Council Chambers in City Hall, the following Resolution was offered by Kryshak, supported by Tirpik.

PRESENT: Zak, Kryshak, Nelson, Tirpik, Coleman

ABSENT: None

WHEREAS the City of Bessemer supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the City of Bessemer acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the City of Bessemer recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Bessemer fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

The forgoing resolution offered by Board Member Kryshak, second offered by Board Member Tirpik.

Upon roll call vote the following voted

AYES: Tirpik, Coleman, Zak, Kryshak, Nelson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Mandy Lake
City Clerk
City of Bessemer

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, County of Gogebic, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held September 11, 2023, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act

Mandy Lake
City Clerk
City of Bessemer

From:	City of Ironwood Clerk
To:	Vicki Schwab (MEDC)
Cc:	Paul Anderson; Mike Foley
Subject:	Resolution of Support for Copperwood Project by Highland Copper
Date:	Friday, August 21, 2026 10:37:50 AM
Attachments:	image001.png RES023-034 Copperwood Support.pdf

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

Attached is Resolution No. 023-034, a Resolution of Support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper, which was unanimously adopted by the Ironwood City Commission on October 23, 2023.

Although there have changes of the elected City Commissioners since the Resolution was initially adopted, Resolution No. 023-034 has not been rescinded, amended, or replaced by the current City Commission. Accordingly, it remains an active Resolution of the City of Ironwood and part of the City's official records.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jen Jacobson
City Clerk

City of Ironwood
213 S. Marquette Street
Ironwood, MI 49938
Office: 906-932-5050 ext. 121
Fax: 906-932-0263
https://www.ironwoodmi.gov

IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | Find Your North

RESOLUTION #023-034

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At a Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Ironwood held on the 23rd day of October 2023, in the Commission Chambers of the Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan, the following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Semo and supported by Commissioner Andresen.

WHEREAS the City of Ironwood supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the City of Ironwood acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the City of Ironwood recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Ironwood fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

Upon roll call vote, the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Commissioners Semo, Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran.
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Kim Corcoran, Mayor

I, Jennifer Jacobson, the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Ironwood, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Ironwood at its Regular Meeting on October 23, 2023.

Jennifer Jacobson, City Clerk

Office of the City Manager

509 Sunday Lake Street
Wakefield, MI 49968
906-229-5131
citymanager@cityofwakefieldmi.gov

August 20, 2026

Michigan Strategic Fund Board
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Re: City of Wakefield Continued Support for the Highland Copper Project

Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Wakefield to confirm the City's continued and strong support for the Highland Copper Project and the broader economic activity associated with it.

The City Council has been engaged on this project for several years now. In 2017, the Council adopted Resolution No. 234, followed by Resolution No. 344 in 2023, both of which reflected the City's support for the project as it was being evaluated and advanced. That position has remained consistent and has continued to be reaffirmed as the project has progressed.

More recently, in 2026, the Council adopted Resolution No. 411 supporting a Michigan Department of Transportation Category A grant application for improvements to County Road 519. That application includes a local match provided by Highland Copper. While the resolution itself was focused on the road project, it is part of the City's ongoing and active coordination with Highland Copper and other partners on infrastructure needs directly tied to development in the area.

The City's position on the project itself is clear and unchanged. Wakefield continues to strongly support the safe, responsible, and well-regulated development of the Highland Copper Project, provided it proceeds in full compliance with all applicable environmental and regulatory requirements. The Council has consistently viewed the project as a significant opportunity for long-term economic growth, including meaningful job creation, increased private investment, and broader regional benefits for the western Upper Peninsula.

Taken together, the City Council's actions since 2017 demonstrate a clear, consistent, and continuing commitment to the Highland Copper Project and its responsible advancement. The City of Wakefield remains supportive of the project and looks forward to its continued progress and the economic opportunities it can bring to our community and the region.

If you have any questions or need anything further from the City, please feel free to contact me.

On behalf of the City of Wakefield,

Robert A Brown Jr

Robert A. Brown Jr.
City Manager

This correspondence has been transmitted electronically only. A hard copy will not be mailed.

RESOLUTION NO. 344

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAKEFIELD, MICHIGAN, IN SUPPORT OF THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT DEVELOPED BY THE HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Council Member Shirkey and supported by Council Member Heikkila.

WHEREAS, the City of Wakefield supports the development of safe, modern, and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wakefield acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wakefield recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

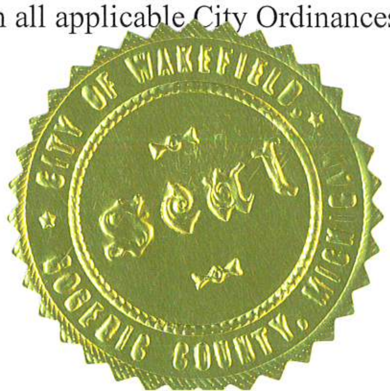
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Wakefield, Michigan supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

AYES:	Council Members Shirkey, Libertoski, Zeckovich, White, and Heikkila
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

This resolution declared adopted this 13 day of November 2023.

State of Michigan)
)
County of Gogebic)

I, Susan Ahonen, City Clerk of the City of Wakefield, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 344 was duly adopted by the Wakefield City Council at a type of meeting held in the Wakefield Municipal Building in the City of Wakefield, Michigan on the 13 day of November 2023, and that the meeting to approve this resolution was held in compliance with all applicable City Ordinances and regulations.



Susan Ahonen

Susan Ahonen, City Clerk

August 18, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been involved with the Copperwood Project since 2008 and have seen the site progress from just a couple of road projects involving graveling and fixing culverts to property development and improvements. My wife and I have been strong supporters of the mine project throughout the years. We have attended public hearings to support the many different permits necessary for a responsibly safe and permitted mine, spoke with legislators and community leaders, and plain old put boots on the ground to perform work on the site to make this project a reality for our area. This past year has been the most impressive and exciting year with the progress that has been made.

Gogebic and Ontonagon County's economy has lost many large employers in the area such as Connor Forest Industries, Norco Window, Steiger's Lumber Mill, Ojibway Correctional Facility, White Pine Mine, just to name a few. Many of those employees have since retired or moved out of the area. Our younger population has dropped significantly because of this and many wish they could come home, but just can't find a good job to come home to. Our population consists mainly of the Baby Boomer generation since there are very few "good" job opportunities available for the younger working force. Because of this, our schools are especially hurting because families must move out of the area to seek better employment. Relocation of families results in smaller class sizes, less State funding for the schools, and school administrations making hard decisions on what classes to keep and which ones to eliminate. School curriculums are at a bare minimum compared to what they were even 20 years ago. The trade's have been lost and many extracurricular activities must be combined with neighboring schools just to continue with those programs. Local and County Governments struggle to fix roads and maintain buildings and infrastructure because of the continuously decreasing population. Without a promise of a major employer in the area, we all know what will happen to our communities: no schools, terrible roads, no hospitals for important healthcare, delipidated homes and buildings, and closed small businesses.

A mine project at Copperwood would provide those "good" jobs for people to move back home to and ensure that our communities don't turn into ghost towns. It holds a promise of good paying jobs for both me and my wife, our friends and families, and also to our children, who we hope are able to at least have a choice if they want to stay here or move elsewhere. Currently, there is no option for them but to move. Building a mine would provide many different job opportunities to the whole region and stimulate our economy, make our schools strong again, provide a good tax base for our local and county governments, and bring good and hardworking people back to our area. We fully support the Copperwood Mine Project!

Sincerely,
Chris and Mandy Lake
Silver Creek Excavating and Trucking, LLC
Wakefield Township, Michigan

ASPIRUS HEALTH

Aspirus.org

August 20, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

Over the past 30 years, the closure of the White Pine Mine, the shutdown of the Ontonagon Paper Mill and, more recently, the closing of the prison in Marenisco have had a significant impact on our region's economy. These losses have reduced employment opportunities, contributed to population decline, and challenged the long-term vitality of communities across the Upper Peninsula.

The Copperwood Mine Project represents an important opportunity to strengthen our regional economy and help reverse these trends. As an active business in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Aspirus Health supports the development of a safe, modern, and environmentally and socially responsible mine in our region.

We recognize that copper is an important material used in electrical infrastructure, transportation technologies, and other applications associated with an evolving energy economy. The Copperwood Mine Project could contribute to domestic mineral production and help meet increasing demand for copper.

The Copperwood Mine Project is also expected to create quality jobs, stimulate local business activity, and generate meaningful economic benefits throughout the region. We recognize the importance of protecting the natural resources that are essential to the character and well-being of our communities and support development that is conducted in accordance with applicable environmental requirements and responsible stewardship practices. We believe the project can play an important role in supporting the long-term vitality of our region.

Sincerely,

Signed by:
Natalie Seaber
4D6477D52473468...

Natalie Seaber, RN, MHA, ACHE
President - Michigan Region
Aspirus Health

Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission
500 N. Moore St.
Bessemer, Michigan 49911-1099
Forestry: (906)663-4687 Parks: (906)663-4428
www.gogebicforestryandparks.com

August 21, 2026

MEDC
Michigan Strategic Fund
300 N. Washington Street
Lansing, MI 49812

RE: Continued Support of Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

Attached is a copy of the resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project adopted by the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission at the February 20, 2025 meeting.

Please consider this correspondence to signify that the existing resolution remains in effect to demonstrate the Commission's continued wholehearted support of the project.

Sincerely,

Greg Ryskey
Director

GR/ah

attachments

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the Regula Meeting of the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission of Gogebic County, duly held on February 20, 2025, at the Natural Resources Center Conference Room in Bessemer, Michigan, the following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Lorenson, supported by Commissioner Siirila.

PRESENT: Lorenson, Matonich, Peterson, Siirila

ABSENT: Charles

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission supports the development of safe, modern, and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copper wood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission acknowledges the critical importance of securing approval of a grant for infrastructure for roads, energy and broadband that provide the infrastructure necessary for the local community's ability to host the mine from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic Site Readiness fund.:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project and the Michigan Economic Develop Corporation Grant.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

YEAS: Lorenson, Matonich, Peterson, Siirila.

NAYS: None.

I, Amy Hamel, Administrative Secretary to the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission, Gogebic County Michigan, do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Gogebic County Forestry & Parks Commission at their regular meeting, held February 20, 2025.

Amy Hamel

AMY HAMEL
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF GOGEBIC
My Commission Expires August 12, 2026
Acting in the County of Gogebic

Gogebic County
Board of County Road Commissioners

BARRY BOLICH
Chair
IRONWOOD
JOHN MATONICH
Commissioner
BESSEMER
JOHN ZORICH
Commissioner
MARENISCO

200 NORTH MOORE STREET
Courthouse Annex
Bessemer, MI 49911
P: (906) 667-0233
F: (906) 663-4807
www.gogebiccountyroadcommission.org

JIM ESTOLA
Vice-Chair
IRONWOOD
DENNIS SKINNER
Commissioner
WAKEFIELD
GARTH STENGARD
Manager
IRONWOOD

August 20, 2026

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

The Gogebic County Road Commission approved a unanimous resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company on February 11, 2025. Resolutions support certain opinions and policy positions and are recorded in our official meeting minutes once approved. The GCRC Board has not rescinded or replaced this resolution, therefore it is still supported as a recorded resolution by the Gogebic County Road Commission.

Sincerely,

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Patti Hagstrom

Patti Hagstrom
Secretary to the Board of Gogebic County Road Commissioners

Gogebic County
Board of County Road Commissioners

BARRY BOLICH
Chair
IRONWOOD
JOHN MATONICH
Commissioner
BESSEMER
JOHN ZORICH
Commissioner
MARENISCO

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JIM ESTOLA
Vice-Chair
IRONWOOD
DENNIS SKINNER
Commissioner
WAKEFIELD
GARTH STENGARD, P.E.
Manager
IRONWOOD

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the Regular Meeting of the Gogebic County Road Commission, duly held on February 11, 2025, the following Resolution was offered:

PRESENT: Mr. Barry Bolich, Mr. Jim Estola, Mr. John Matonich, Mr. John Zorich

ABSENT: Mr. Dennis Skinner

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Road Commission supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Road Commission acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Road Commission recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy, and;

WHEREAS the Gogebic County Road Commission acknowledges the critical importance of securing approval of a grant for infrastructure for roads, energy and broadband that provide the infrastructure necessary for local the community's ability to host the mine from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic Site Readiness fund.:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Gogebic County Road Commission fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project and the Michigan Economic Develop Corporation Grant.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

YEAS: Estola, Matonich, Zorich & Bolich
NAYS: None

This is to certify that the above Resolution was passed by the Board of County Road Commissioners at a regular meeting held on February 11, 2025.

Patricia J. Hagstrom

Patricia J. Hagstrom, Secretary to the Board

COLEMAN ENGINEERING COMPANY
CIVIL ENGINEERING • GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING • SURVEYING
635 CIRCLE DRIVE • IRON MOUNTAIN, MI 49801 • PHONE: 906-774-3440

August 18, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

Re: Highland Copper Company
Copperwood Mine Project

Mr. Fittante:

Coleman Engineering Company has been a proud employer of professional and technical residents of the western Upper Peninsula for over 50 years. The decline of our area's economy with the closure of White Pine Mine 30 years ago, Ontonagon Paper mill a few years later, and more recently the closure of the prison in Marenisco, has left a significant gap in the ability of the residents to secure family sustaining jobs. This is evidenced by the decline of the population, as well as the increase in the average age of residents. The Copperwood Mine Project will provide a wind of change and significant improvements to the economy in the area.

We are providing this letter to express our support for the Copperwood Mine Project. As an active full services consulting firm in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we support the development of a safe, modern, and environmentally and socially responsible mine in our region. We understand the need for copper in this age of transition to a lower carbon economy and hope that Michigan, through its support of the Copperwood Mine Project, can become a leader in this area by locally extracting copper, a metal critical to the manufacturing of technologies supporting this transition.

In conclusion, we support Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project that will be transformative to our local and regional economy and accelerate our return to a thriving area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (906)774-3440 to discuss this matter or to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Trevillian, P.E., Principal
Coleman Engineering Company

Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District

GOGEBIC-ONTONAGON
Intermediate School District
Leading, Supporting, Enriching

Office of the Superintendent
Phone: (906) 575-3438
Fax: (906) 575-3373
200 South Elm Street
PO Box 20
Ewen, Michigan 49925

August 18, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Highland Copper Company – Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

The decline of our area's economy with the closure of White Pine Mine 30 years ago, Ontonagon Paper mill a few years later, and more recently, the closure of the prison in Marenisco has left a significant gap in the ability of the residents to secure family-sustaining jobs. This is evidenced by the decline in the population as well as the increase in the average age of residents. The Copperwood Mine Project will provide a wind of change and significant improvement to the economy of the area.

We are providing this letter to express our support for the Copperwood Mine Project. As an educational service agency that works with families and schools in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we support the development of a safe, modern, environmentally and socially responsible mine in our region. We understand the need for copper in this age of transition to a lower carbon economy and hope that Michigan, through its support of the Copperwood Mine Project, can become a leader in this area by locally extracting copper, a metal critical to the manufacturing of technologies supporting this transition.

In conclusion, we support Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project, which will be transformative to our local and regional economy and accelerate our return to a thriving area.
Please do not hesitate to contact me at 906-575-3438 to discuss this matter or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Tulppo

Alan R. Tulppo, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District

INVESTUP™

August 20, 2026

Members, Michigan Strategic Fund
Michigan Strategic Fund Office
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Site Readiness Grant request to support infrastructure in Gogebic County for the Cooperwood mine and local industry.

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

On behalf of InvestUP, along with its Board of Directors, which represent eleven industry sectors across Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) and do business in each U.P. county and across the state and nation, I would like to express our support for a site readiness grant request that we believe is imperative to advancing economic development opportunity in the Western Upper Peninsula – a $50 million to investment in local infrastructure in Wakefield Township (which is located in Gogebic County) to support critical infrastructure that is essential for the township to pursue economic development opportunities that are presently before it, including especially the Copperwood Mine.

To understand why we hold this belief, you need to only understand the dire demographics of the area – arguably, as evidenced by the data, there is no region in the state with a greater need for economic development opportunity than in Gogebic County.

To start, Gogebic County has lost nearly 70% of its K-12 population. Additionally, of all 15 UP counties, Gogebic County ranks the highest in poverty rates with 29% of households in poverty. When combining ALICE and poverty rates, the county sees astounding 52% households living in poverty. The county significantly lags behind in median household income at $47,913 (2022), while the state median income is at $68,505.

Further, when comparing median house values, Gogebic County rounds out at the very bottom of all UP counties at $87,800. In addition, homes in border counties (Gogebic County shares a border with the State of Wisconsin) of Vilas and Iron in Wisconsin are valued over $255,000 and $144,000 respectively.

To further emphasize the county's need for economic development, over the past decade, job postings are down 5% when postings across the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan are trending up.

In addition, the living hourly wage threshold for Gogebic County is $22.70 (2022); this is the minimum living wage for 2 adults working full time with two children in the household. At the same time, average advertised wages in job postings in the Western UP are below $18 an hour. In the UP, only Ontonagon and Baraga have lower living hourly wages at $22.59 and $21.82 respectively.

INVESTUP™

The circumstances are equally dire in Ontonagon County, which shares a border with Gogebic County. Ontonagon will also see tremendous economic benefit from economic development opportunities of significance in Wakefield Township. Ontonagon has lost nearly 80% of their student population, have the state's oldest average age, and see one in two households earn less than the minimum cost necessary to live and work. In fact, Ontonagon recently saw its hospital close (which is only a slightly better reality than that which recently occurred in Ironwood, which has now closed its maternity ward) – and, as you know, without a hospital (and arguably a maternity ward), you don't have a community.

And that is not the only significant institutional loss of employment in the region - two of the bigger employers in the area also having closed and seen no employer expand or relocate to replace those jobs: the Marinesco Prison which was the area's second largest employer, was shuttered by the State in 2018 and Waupaca Foundry in Ironwood just closed its doors at the beginning of the year.

Finally, as a private-sector driven organization, we know and appreciate the concern about spending public funds for economic development projects, we want to stress that we believe this Request to make critical infrastructure investments is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. In addition to benefiting the local economy, this investment into roads, energy and telecommunications will directly benefit the State of Michigan through positive tax revenue implications to the state. In fact, we would expect, based on detail shared with our organization about a project destined to rely on this infrastructure, that the tax revenue generated by the economic development opportunities for the County will benefit the state with a return that will exceed the amount of funding that is being requested here.

Consequently, we ask that you look favorably upon the request to approve this request for this $50 million to investment to improve local infrastructure in Wakefield Township to drive desperately needed local economic development opportunity, including especially the Copperwood Mine.

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our outlook and our support of this appropriation, please call on me any time.

Sincerely,

Marty Fittante,
CEO, InvestUP

Charter Township of Ironwood

N10892 Lake Rd
Ironwood, MI 49938
Website: www.Ironwoodtownship.com

Phone: (906) 932-5800
Fax: (906) 932-5089

Jay Kangas., Supervisor (906)932-8447
Sherry King , Clerk (906) 932-8446
Maria Graser, Treasurer (906) 932-8445

August 20, 2026

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

The Charter Township of Ironwood Board of Trustees unanimously approved Resolution 2023-0013 on October 23, 2023 supporting the development of Highland Copper's Copperwood Mine Project. This action builds upon a history of prior resolutions passed by the Board in favor of Highland Copper's initiatives. Moving forward, the Charter Township of Ironwood continues to maintain its steadfast support for Highland Copper and the Copperwood Mine. Any assistance or support from the Michigan Strategic Fund in helping to advance this initiative would be greatly appreciated.

Warm Regards,

Jay Kangas

Jay Kangas
Supervisor
N10892 Lake Rd
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-8447

Charter Township of Ironwood

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution # 2023-0013

At the Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Ironwood, duly held on October 23, 2023, duly held in the board room, of Ironwood Township. The following Resolution was adopted in support of the Copperwood Mine Project.

PRESENT: Aili-Angus, Justinak, Simmons, Lyons, Graser, Segalin and Kangas
ABSENT: None

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Ironwood, supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Ironwood, acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Ironwood, recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Charter Township of Ironwood, fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

The forgoing resolution offered by, ____Lyons_______ Supported by____Aili-Angus______.
Upon roll call vote the following voted

YEAS: All
NAYS: None

CERTIFICATION
I, the undersigned duly qualified Clerk of Charter Township of Ironwood, Gogebic County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Ironwood, County of Gogebic, Michigan at a regular meeting held on October 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.
I further certify that the following members were present at said meeting:

Mary Segalin ________ 10-23-2023 ________

Mary Segalin, Clerk Date

1801 E. Cloverland Dr.
P.O. Box 188
Ironwood, MI 49938
Phone: (906) 932-3410
Fax: (906) 932-5823
Email: investors@Keweenaw.com

TIMBER
LAND
MINERALS

KEWEENAW
LAND ASSOCIATION, LIMITED

& IRONWOOD MINES CORPORATION
a subsidiary of Keweenaw Land Association, Limited

August 20, 2026

Marty Fittante
Chief Executive Officer
InvestUP
101 W. Washington, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Highland Copper Company – Copperwood Mine Project

Dear M. Fittante,

My name is Tim Lynott, President and CEO of Keweenaw Land Association, Ltd. a Michigan corporation based in Ironwood, Michigan. We have operated here for over 150 years as a mineral and timber management company and currently manage about 1.3 million acres of minerals across upper Michigan and at the Copperwood project. Not only do we work here in Michigan, we live here and we are from here, we have always been here.

A Pure Michigan and clean energy future starts with responsible and sustainable mining. Mining of those minerals can be done in Michigan as demonstrated by the Eagle mine.

For too long, the western end of the UP has seen a decline in population and economic growth, since the White Pine mine closed in the 90's followed by the Ontonagon paper mill in the 2000's and then the Ojibway correctional facility in the 2010's. Our greatest export has been our youth and our families that can no longer afford to live here. This is an opportunity to change all of that!

I call it a Friday night fish fry and an F-150 in the driveway. Back when the mines were in operation, life was good. People remember those times and want to see them return. Family sustaining jobs, filling our schools and our stores, and once again contributing to a Michigan economy.

The opportunity is not only for families but also for Michigan. During the pandemic we heard about supply chain challenges. This opportunity before us can help eliminate that challenge by mining and refining the necessary minerals to supply the manufacturers of products that are made in Michigan. Can you imagine an F-150 rolling off the assembly line in Detroit utilizing minerals and copper mined from Upper Michigan?

It is not only the supply chain but also the value chain. Michigan is home to the Big 3 auto manufacturers that will be consuming ever more amounts of these critical and strategic metals.

The value proposition for Michigan is capturing the value across the product life cycle including mining severance taxes, local, and state corporate taxes as well as income taxes for the numerous jobs this investment will support.

Pure Michigan is not about choosing recreation or the environment over industry. It is about pursuing both in a responsible and sustainable manner.

They can coexist in Michigan, and in Upper Michigan they have always coexisted. Some of the most beautiful areas we have are former mines, across the UP, that have recovered from the sins of the past long before environmental standards existed. In the 21st century, new standards exist. And Michigan has some of the best which will guarantee we protect all of our precious resources.

An investment of this magnitude will keep the people here in Upper Michigan that want to stay here, it will bring back those people that want to return here, and it will ensure that Pure Michigan will carry on for those people that visit and recreate here!

Mined in Michigan, Made in Michigan!

Sincerely,

Timothy Lynott

Tim Lynott
President and CEO
Keweenaw Land Association, Ltd.

TOWNSHIP OF ONTONAGON

Established 1847

311 NORTH STEEL STREET   ONTONAGON, MI 49953

(906) 884-2415

August 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ontonagon Township Board approved a unanimous resolution supporting the Copperwood Project, the development of a copper mine in Wakefield Township, Gogebic County, Michigan, on October 17, 2023. As of this date, this resolution #23-11 remains in effect.

Ontonagon Township acknowledges Highland Copper Company's commitment to developing an environmentally sustainable copper mine that will benefit the Western Upper Peninsula. This project aims to maximize local employment opportunities and provide significant economic advantages to the region, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy. Ontonagon Township fully supports this initiative.

Sincerely,

Steve Store

Steve Store
Supervisor

cc: Twp Office

23-11

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the regular Meeting of the Ontonagon Township Board, of the Township of Ontonagon, duly held on October 17, 2023, duly held in the board room, at the Memorial Building, 311 N Steel St, Ontonagon, MI, the following Resolution was offered by Maki, supported by Saari.

PRESENT: Supervisor Steve Store, Clerk Pam Chabot, Treasurer Penny Saari, Trustees Chuck Maki & Brenda Hamm

ABSENT:

WHEREAS the Township of Ontonagon supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Township of Ontonagon acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Township of Ontonagon recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Township of Ontonagon fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

The forgoing resolution offered by Board Member Chuck Maki second offered by Board Member Penny Saari.

Upon roll call vote the following voted

YEAS: ~~||||~~ Supervisor Store, Treasurer Saari, Clerk Chabot, Trustees Chuck Maki & Brenda Hamm

NAYS: Ø

I, Pam Chabot, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Ontonagon Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on Oct 17, 2023 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Pam Chabot
Clerk

Ontonagon
Harbor Town
Gateway to the Porcupine Mountains

VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON

Founded in 1843

315 Quartz Street
Ontonagon, Michigan 49953
Phone: 906-884-2305 Fax: 906-884-4369
TDD: 1-800-649-3777
Website: www.villageofontonagon.org

August 21, 2026

Michigan Strategic Fund Board

RE: Resolution 2023-16

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

The Village of Ontonagon's Village Council approved a resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company on October 9, 2023. Resolutions such as Resolution 2023-16 are recorded in our official meeting minutes once approved. Although there are new members on the Village Council since the approval in 2023, the new council members have not rescinded or replaced this resolution. Therefore, Resolution 2023-16 is still in effect.

A copy of Resolution 2023-16 is attached. Please contact me at (906) 884-2305 with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

William DuPont
Village Manager
Village of Ontonagon

RESOLUTION 2023-16
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the Regular Meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, duly held on October 9th, 2023, duly held in the offices at 315 Quartz Street, Ontonagon, Michigan, the following Resolution was offered by Trustee Chastan supported by Trustee Marks.

PRESENT: Chastan, Marks, Rebholz, Seid, Waldrop, Hopper & Coey

ABSENT: None

WHEREAS the Village of Ontonagon supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Village of Ontonagon acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Village of Ontonagon recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Village of Ontonagon fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

THIS RESOLUTION is hereby approved by roll call vote:

YEAS: Chastan, Marks, Rebholz, Seid & Coey

NAYS: Waldrop & Hopper

And, adopted by a 2/3rds vote of the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, this 9th day of October, 2023.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, County of Ontonagon, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on Monday, October 9, 2023, that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267 of Public Acts of Michigan 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Kori Weisinger

Kori Weisinger, Village Clerk

From:	Jennifer Ahonen
To:	Vicki Schwab (MEDC)
Subject:	Michigan Strategic Fund - Copperwood Mine Project
Date:	Friday, August 21, 2026 1:01:52 PM
Attachments:	2023-11-LET-Wakefield Township Resolution - Copperwood.pdf

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

The Wakefield Township Board approved a unanimous resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company on November 7th, 2023. Resolutions support certain opinions and policy positions and are recorded in our official meeting minutes once approved. This resolution of support, along with others passed previously, has not been rescinded. The Township Board members have remained the same since 2020 and continue to support the project and their continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ahonen
Wakefield Township Clerk

--
Jennifer Ahonen
Wakefield Township Clerk
Telephone (906) 364-0717
clerk@wakefieldtownship.com
Website: wakefieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board of Wakefield Township, duly held on November 7, 2023, duly held in the board room at Wakefield Township Hall, 414 N. County Rd. 519, the following Resolution was offered by Robert Drier supported by Michael Heikkila

PRESENT: Jennifer Ahonen, Denise Laessig, Robert Drier, Michael Heikkila

ABSENT: Mandy Lake

WHEREAS the Township of Wakefield supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Township of Wakefield acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Township of Wakefield recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Township of Wakefield fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

The forgoing resolution offered by Board Member Robert Drier second offered by Board Member michael Heikkila.

Upon roll call vote the following voted

YEAS: michael Heikkila, Denise Laessig, Robert Drier, Jennifer Ahonen

NAYS: none

The Wakefield Township Clerk declared the Resolution adopted.

JAhonen

Jennifer Ahonen, Wakefield Township Clerk

Date: 11/7/23

Western U.P.
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

400 Quincy St, 8th Floor, Hancock, Michigan 49930
906-482-7205 Fax: 906-482-9032 e-mail: info@wuppdr.org

VIA E-MAIL

August 21, 2026

Board Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund:

On October 16, 2023 the Executive Committee of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission (WUPPDR) adopted a resolution in support of the Copperwood Mine of Highland Copper Company. No further action on the matter has been taken, and WUPPDR remains strongly in support of the Copperwood Project.

Furthermore, the project is supported by and supportive of goals and objectives of the 2026-2030 Western Upper Peninsula Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which serves as the economic development plan for the Western U.P., including Gogebic County. Development and implementation of the CEDS is led by WUPPDR with guidance from a committee of diverse stakeholders from throughout the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to express WUPPDR's support for the project.

Sincerely,

Jerald Wuorenmaa
Executive Director

Western U.P.
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION
400 Quincy St, 8th Floor, Hancock, Michigan 49930
906-482-7205 Fax: 906-482-9032 e-mail: info@wuppdr.org

RESOLUTION 2023-03

Support for the Copperwood Mine of Highland Copper Company

WHEREAS, the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission (hereinafter referred to as "WUPPDR") supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, WUPPDR acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region; and

WHEREAS, WUPPDR recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2026 Western Upper Peninsula Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which WUPPDR maintains in its capacity as an economic development district organization of the United States Economic Development Administration, includes an objective to support and seek opportunities for the value-added use of commodities originating within the region; and

WHEREAS, WUPPDR's mission is to foster stable and diversified economies in the Western Upper Peninsula.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission strongly supports advancement and development of the Copperwood Mine Project.

Moved: Bob Nousiainen Supported: William Menge

Aye: 5; Nay: 0 Motion carries.

I certify the above motion is a true copy of action taken by the Executive Committee of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission at its regular meeting on October 16, 2023.

William Menge

William Menge, Secretary

From: lk.lisa.krol@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Krol <lk.lisa.krol@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2026 11:31 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: Uphold the Law: No tax breaks for dirty data centers

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

I am writing to urge you to uphold Michigan law and protect Michiganders from rising energy costs by denying tax breaks to data centers that fail to meet Michigan's clean energy requirements.

Data centers are among the most energy-intensive facilities on the planet, consuming as much electricity as small cities. Without strong safeguards, they can drive up energy demand, increase utility costs for families and small businesses, and slow Michigan's transition to clean, affordable energy.

The 2024 data center tax incentive law included a 90% clean energy requirement to ensure new development does not come at the expense of Michigan communities. Allowing corporations to qualify for tax breaks based on speculative compliance undermines the intent and letter of the law: data centers in Michigan must actually operate on at least 90% clean energy when they come online.

Granting tax exemptions without enforcing the law shifts the burden onto everyday Michiganders, forcing us to pay more for their energy while large corporations benefit.

I urge you to enforce the clean energy requirement as written, reject loopholes that weaken accountability, and protect Michigan communities from higher energy costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Krol
2220 Angelique Ave Lincoln Park, MI 48146-2584 lk.lisa.krol@gmail.com

From: Tim Rand <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:11 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

I'm a Michigan resident writing to demand a pause on tax breaks for data centers until the board's guidelines enforce the 90% clean energy requirement as the law is written, and until the program's true fiscal, climate, and grid costs are fully accounted for.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Rand
220 W Saginaw Hwy apt d5
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
tlrand@comcast.net
(517) 626-0202

From: Kate Mcclanaghan <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:51 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Sincerely,

Kate Mcclanaghan
17337 Warrington Drive
Detroit, MI 48221
kate@bighousecasting.com
(773) 206-0679

From: Kelly Young <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:36 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

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Sincerely,

Kelly Young
9586 rockland
Redford, MI 48239
kyoung100700@gmail.com
(313) 269-5882

(MEDC)

From: Kayla Niner <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:24 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Sincerely,

Kayla Niner
324 Royal
Royal Oak, MI 48073
shad0wc00kiecrumbs@gmail.com
(248) 588-7657

From: Art Hanson <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 11:24 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Sincerely,

Art Hanson
2700 Burcham Dr., Rm. 329
East Lansing, MI 48823
ahanson47@comcast.net
(517) 420-4314

From: Charles migyanka jr <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:25 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

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Sincerely,

Charles migyanka jr
51015 Warren Rd
Canton, MI 48187
cmigyanka@comcast.net
(313) 570-6714

From: Lisa Obrecht <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:38 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Data centers suck up all the local resources and leave those of us who live here with the destruction of their greed. No data centers period.

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Sincerely,

Lisa Obrecht
4830 Mason Rd
Howell, MI 48843
lisaobrecht56@gmail.com
(517) 552-3990

From: Laura Moloney <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 2:35 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

AI has never been presented as a choice. It is not a necessity, nor a benefit that outweighs the toxic drawbacks of data centers. AI applications are mostly frivolous luxuries. People are in serious need of the basics of survival, a few of which are in serious jeopardy -- housing and clean water.

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Sincerely,

Laura Moloney
1740 Ashley Court
WALLED LAKE, MI 48390
hopemoloney@yahoo.com
(248) 960-1013

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

From: Nancy Verlinde <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 2:11 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Verlinde
524 E. Exchange St
Spring Lake, MI 49456
grammygram1965@gmail.com
(269) 795-7511

From: Dave Palmer <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:54 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

These are our communities and we know what is good for our community and what is not good for our community! It is DIABOLICAL that these corporations are FORCING these data centers upon the people, and bribing the local governments to push it through. COMPANIES OF DATA CENTERS ARE ACTING FASCIST!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

I'm a Michigan resident writing to demand a pause on tax breaks for data centers until the board's guidelines enforce the 90% clean energy requirement as the law is written, and until the program's true fiscal, climate, and grid costs are fully accounted for.

Across the country, states are discovering these tax breaks cost far more than promised. Ohio's came in at $1.6 billion -- eleven times the estimate -- and the state paused new approvals; Illinois soon followed.

Michigan vastly underestimated the costs of these tax breaks. The estimate lawmakers relied on suggested the entire program would cost $52.5–90 million over roughly 40 years. Now a single data center in Saline could claim around $420 million: several times the original estimate, with more than a dozen other projects proposed.

We cannot expect income tax from these data centers to offset that loss. Michigan taxes corporate income based on where a company's customers are and data centers sell computing power to clients across the country and the world, so very little of that profit is taxable in Michigan.

Why are we giving data centers enormous tax breaks for little to nothing in return?

To the Michigan Strategic Fund board: enforce the 90% clean energy requirement as the law is written. The statute requires each facility to procure clean energy equal to 90% of its own forecasted electricity use, and it provides the pathways: on-site generation, a long-term contract that actually delivers clean energy to the facility, or a verified green pricing program.

The board is currently considering any data center served by a regulated utility compliant. That implementation cannot be squared with the statute. No Michigan utility delivers anywhere near 90% clean energy today and none is required to for years. So the board treats a standard no one meets as one everyone meets. It demands nothing beyond what a data center would do anyway -- buy utility power. And it carries no consequence: if the utility falls short, the data center keeps the exemption.

Meanwhile, the new demand from data centers becomes the "unanticipated load growth" that lets utilities petition to delay clean energy compliance and build new gas plants -- the opposite of what our legislature intended. I urge the board to revise its guidelines so exemptions go only to facilities that demonstrate 90% clean energy procurement for their own operations through the pathways the statute provides, with real reporting and consequences if they fail.

Until those guidelines are corrected, the board should issue no new certificates. With costs far exceeding original estimates, each certificate issued in the meantime would commit hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to the most profitable corporations in the world.

To Governor Whitmer: you have said Michigan's environmental protections are "non-negotiable." As currently designed, this program undercuts that commitment, inviting data center demand that supplies the very "unanticipated load growth" utilities can use to delay your own clean energy law and build new fossil generation, while risking billions in tax losses the state has never fully accounted for.

Honoring your commitment to our environment would require you to take the step the governors of Ohio and Illinois just took: direct a pause on new exemptions and order a full accounting of the program's fiscal, climate, and grid impacts, with no new approvals until that accounting is public.

I come to you with one simple demand: no approvals of new tax breaks until data centers can no longer be used to dodge Michigan's clean energy law and until the true cost of these tax breaks are accounted for. Our tax dollars should support things like our public schools not tax breaks for some of the most profitable corporations in the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Palmer
15615 Bradner Ave
Plymouth, MI 48170
dplmr228@gmail.com
(248) 946-6392

From: The Rev. Elizabeth M. Chace <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 4:26 PM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

I'm a Michigan resident writing to demand a pause on tax breaks for data centers until the board's guidelines enforce the 90% clean energy requirement as the law is written, and until the program's true fiscal, climate, and grid costs are fully accounted for.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Elizabeth M. Chace
5313 Trails End PO Box 109
Frederic, MI 49733
elizabethchace02@gmail.com
(989) 344-1102

From: Pareese Young <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 11:23 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pareese Young
4931 Comfort Rd
Tecumseh, MI 49286
pareeseh@duck.com
(517) 423-7690

From: Margaret Carden <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 8:12 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Carden
2049 Hyde Park
Detroit, MI 48207
carden0924@gmail.com
(586) 551-0009

From: Mary keller <kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 9:30 AM
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No Blank Checks for Data Centers!

no data centers until we know they are a benefit. I see the start increases in energy cost my family members in Ohio are getting already.. this is crazy Protect our natural resources, it what sets our state apart. The beauty, forest, lakes& wildlife are treasure not easily found. These data centers are a threat to our environment. The cost to the public for them is an even bigger reason to slow down. The Michigan people do not want higher energy cost associated with them, or the strain on the electric grid. Absolutely no blank checks for data centers. No data centers.

Dear Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary keller
1115 Arianna St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
kellermary61@live.com
(231) 881-4938

No Data centers!

The taxpayers of Michigan have made it clear we do not want data centers in our neighborhoods. By using our tax dollars to force data centers is unjust and wrong. Do what is best for the people in MI not just the wealthy.

METROPLEX MI 480
13 AUG 2025 PM 2 L

Forever
SASSAFRAS

MI Strategic Fund Board
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

48913-

August 24, 2026

Michigan Strategic Fund Board
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

MMA is proud to offer its strong endorsement of the Copperwood Resources, Inc. project in Gogebic County. The strength of Michigan's robust manufacturing history is rooted in both innovation and capitalizing on our rich natural resources. Whether its iron ore mined in the Upper Peninsula and crafted into steel to build automobiles in Detroit, or natural brine in the ground around Midland to be transformed by Herbert Henry Dow to produce chlorine or agricultural products used by Kellogg to create a new breakfast cereal, Michigan's natural resources have driven our economic growth.

In recent years, we all learned how supply chain limitations can impact our manufacturing economy. As Michigan helps drive technological evolution in mobility, information technology and other sectors, our natural resources will once again provide a competitive advantage over other states and nations. Michigan has been the envy of other states as they want our jobs and our natural resources. Now, as one of the only states that mines iron ore, and the only state that produces nickel, Michigan must once again take advantage of its own natural resources, including copper and rare earth minerals to drive battery technology, electric vehicle innovation and spur economic growth.

The economic impact will be statewide, though the greatest impact will be felt locally in the Upper Peninsula and specifically Gogebic County. The project will create 380 jobs in a county that currently only employs 5,706 people with a population of just 14,361 people. These new jobs alone will increase employment by 7%. Moreover, these are high wage jobs ranging from $80,000 to $120,000 with benefits, will support families, grow local businesses and bolster local schools. This is a dramatic boost to local communities as the current per capita income in Gogebic County (2022) is $47,559.

The capital investment of $425 million provides a catalyst for growth as the mine will produce roughly 675 million pounds of copper over its 11-year mine life, supporting the production of more than 3,750,000 electric vehicles. The investment in mining will multiply job growth. The National Mining Association reports that mining currently supports approximately 9,000 direct jobs in Michigan and 17,000 indirect and induced jobs.

MMA encourages the MSF Board to support this project, continuing our robust economic legacy of driving innovation and economic growth by capitalizing on our rich natural resources.

Thank you for all you do to grow this great state and thank you for your consideration in this important project.

Sincerely,

John Walsh
President & CEO

Michigan Strategic Fund Office
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933 Re:

Re: Site Readiness Grant to support infrastructure related to the Copperwood project

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

MichAuto is strongly in support of the Copperwood Mine project. This project is an important economic development endeavor for the state and its auto industry. It will create jobs, enhance the economic vitality of the state, and help strengthen Michigan's leadership in the resilient automotive and mobility supply chains, and the advancement of the new energy economy.

From mining to the recycling of those same minerals, Michigan must play a leadership role in bolstering U.S. competitiveness and reducing dependence on foreign supply chain sources. As we look at the production of everything from EV batteries to wind turbines, Copperwood can play a critical role.

In Michigan, we are part of a complex global supply chain. Resiliency in that supply chain is critical. Minerals and mining have long been key parts of that supply chain from iron ore to nickel and copper as has the U.P. – where Michiganians have helped build and sustain manufacturing in this country.

Copper demand is growing – set to double globally by 2035 – and is used in vehicle manufacturing and sustainable energy technologies. EVs, for instance, require twice the amount of copper as a traditional car or truck. Copper is also known as the most recycled mineral and can be recycled an infinite number of times with a higher recycling rate than any other metal.

Copper is also a key material in the core technologies of the energy transition – wind turbines, power cables, and energy storage systems. However, copper shortages could delay timelines for achieving carbon-reduction targets and hinder development of cleaner energy alternatives.

Your support for this important project is essential to ensuring that this project can open and ultimately position Michigan to continue to lead in the areas of sustainable energy technologies and next-generation mobility.

Michigan must take every opportunity to be a leader in the circular economy – focusing on extending product lifespan, reusing materials, and minimizing waste through recycling. For Michigan to lead in the circular economy of automotive, EVs, and the sustainable energy future – copper mining at Copperwood should and must play a crucial role.

Sincerely,

Glenn Stevens Jr.
Executive Director, MichAuto
Chief Automotive and Innovation Officer, Detroit Regional Chamber

From:	Alexandra Kahn
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	REJECT THE $50 MILLION FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 2:30:27 PM

I am writing to publicly comment my firm opposition to the $50 million in funding for the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc. The Copperwood Mine is an offense to the state of Michigan, its people, its water and its land. This funding has been denied three times already, the operating company is inexperienced and does not have a fraction of the cash on hand that they need to move forward with this project. They failed to meet the original conditions of their MSF grant, secure their debt financing, or come up with the $37 million in financial assistance required by their mining permit.

We cannot trust them to follow through on their economic promises when they are coming up short at every turn. The stakes are too high to run a highly toxic and dangerous mine on the shores of our greatest natural resources. Our state's funding must go to projects that enrich our communities, not pillage and destroy them for short term foreign gain.

Please vote NO to any advancements on the Copperwood Mine, and NO to gicing $50 million in funding to Highland Copper so they may steal our resources out from under us and leave us with the cleanup.

Thank you.

From:	Audrey Garrett
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Deny Copperwood funding
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 9:17:32 PM

Michigan Strategic Fund,

I'm writing to ask that you deny funding for the Copperwood mine. I grew up in Michigan but now reside in Pennsylvania, I and my family still make the trip up north every summer. Michigan's tourism relies on the health of its natural landscapes and that should not be jeopardized for the sake of a risky investment in an unproven mining company.

Audrey Garrett
3416 Ainslie Street
Philadelphia, PA
19129

Upper Peninsula
UPCDC
Collaborative Development Council

August 24, 2026

Members, Michigan Strategic Fund
Care of: Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 North Washington Street
Lansing, Michigan, 48909

Re: Site Readiness Grant
Gogebic County Road Commission & Highland Copper

Dear Strategic Fund Members,

Together, we represent economic, community and planning development organizations that represent diverse organizations that are focused on the well-being and vitality of the Upper Peninsula and have members that do business in and work in every county of the U.P., as well as around the State and the Nation. With thousands of members, we speak for interests that are very vested in the well-being and prosperity of the U.P, from small businesses to higher education, to labor and skilled trades, to large manufacturers, to non-profit organizations and government partners.

While we are individually focused on growing and developing opportunity within the communities we represent, we collectively believe that advancing economic development opportunity in the Western Upper Peninsula is imperative. That is why, although in some cases we will only see indirect benefits to the communities we serve directly across the region, we all support a $50 million site readiness investment to the Gogebic County Road Commission and Highland Copper to support crucial infrastructure that is necessary to advance the economic development opportunities that are presently before Gogebic County and Wakefield township, especially the Copperwood Mine.

To understand why we hold this collective belief, you need to only understand the dire demographics of the area – arguably, as evidenced by the data, there is arguably no region in the state with a greater need for economic development opportunity than this particular community.

To start, Gogebic County has lost nearly 70% of its K-12 population. Additionally, of all 15 UP counties, Gogebic County ranks the highest in poverty rates with 29% of households in poverty. When combining ALICE and poverty rates, the county sees astounding 52% households living in poverty. The county significantly lags behind in median household income at $47,913 (2022), while the state median income is at $68,505.

Further, when comparing median house values, Gogebic County rounds out at the very bottom of all UP counties at $87,800. In addition, homes in border counties (Gogebic County shares a border with the State of Wisconsin) of Vilas and Iron in Wisconsin are valued over $255,000 and $144,000 respectively.

To further emphasize the area's need for economic development, over the past decade, in 2025, job postings were down 5% when postings across the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan were trending up.

In addition, again in 2025, the living hourly wage threshold for Gogebic County was $22.70 (2022); this is the minimum living wage for 2 adults working full time with two children in the household. At the same time, average advertised wages in job postings in the Western UP were below $18 an hour. In the UP, only Ontonagon and Baraga have lower living hourly wages at $22.59 and $21.82 respectively.

The circumstances are equally dire in Ontonagon County, which shares a border with Gogebic County. Ontonagon will also see tremendous economic benefit from economic development opportunities of significance in Wakefield Township. Ontonagon has lost nearly 80% of their student population, have the state's oldest average age, and see one in two households earn less than the minimum cost necessary to live and work. In fact, Ontonagon recently saw its hospital close, which reflects the relatively good fortunate of Gogebic County, as it has "*only*" seen its maternity ward close. As you all well know, without a hospital, you don't have a community!

And that is not the only significant institutional loss of employment in the region - two of the bigger employers in the area also having closed and seen no employer expand or relocate to replace those jobs: the Ojibway Correctional Facility, which was the area's second largest employer, was shuttered by the State in 2018 and Waupaca Foundry in Ironwood closed its doors in February of 2025.

Finally, as we know and appreciate the concern about spending public funds for economic development projects, we want to stress that we believe this $50 million request to support site readiness investments that will permit the construction of critical infrastructure is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. In addition to benefiting the local economy, this investment into roads, energy and telecommunications will directly benefit the State of Michigan through positive tax revenue implications to the State. In fact, we would expect, based on detail shared with InvestUP about the Copperwood Mine that the tax revenue generated by the Mine and associated local economic development opportunities for Western U.P. will benefit the State with a return that will exceed the amount of funding that is being requested here.

Consequently, we ask that you look favorably on the $50 million site readiness grant (which incidentally is supported by all six members of the Upper Peninsula legislative delegation) that is before you to the Gogebic County Road Commission and Highland Copper to support crucial infrastructure that is necessary to advance the economic development opportunities that are presently before Gogebic County and Wakefield township, especially the Copperwood Mine.

Upper Peninsula UPCDC Collaborative Development Council

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our outlook and our support for this appropriation, please call on Marty Fittante (invest@investupmi.com)

Sincerely,

1. Baraga County Economic Development Corporation by its Executive Director, Mary Myers
2. Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation by its CEO, Chris Olson
3. Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Agency by its Executive Director, Dotty LaJoye
4. Delta County Economic Development Alliance by its Executive Director, Ed Legault
5. Dickinson County Economic Development Alliance by its Executive Director, Mindy Meyers
6. Eastern Upper Peninsula Planning Agency by its CEO, Jeff Hagan
7. Greater Munising Bay Partnership, by is CEO, Kathy Reynolds
8. Headwaters North SmartZone by its CEO, Nikki Storey
9. Innovate Marquette SmartZone by its CEO, Joe Thiel
10. InvestUP by its CEO, Marty Fittante
11. Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance by its Executive Director, Zach Hautala
12. Ironwood Economic Development Office by its Executive Director, Tom Bergman
13. Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance by its Executive Director, Jeff Ratcliffe
14. Lake Superior Community Partnership, by its CEO, Natalie Chmiko
15. Luce County EDC by its Executive Director, Tammy Henry
16. MTEC SmartZone by its CEO, David Rowe
17. Ontonagon DDA by its Director, Rich Earnst
18. Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation by its Director, Nicole Radke
19. Schoolcraft Tourism and Commerce Association by its Executive Director, Victoria George
20. Upper Peninsula Michigan Works by its CEO, Debb Brunnell
21. Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region by its CEO, Jerald Wuorenmaa

From:	B. Iris Potter
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Request to Deny fund investment for Highland Copper
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 11:34:34 AM

To: The Michigan Strategic Investment Fund.
Dear Members:
The state of Michigan has 3 times denied the use of $50 million to help the Copperwood Mine project advance — twice in 2024 (1,2) and again in 2025— due to outreach from tens of thousands of us constituents.

Please Do Not approve $50 million to advance Highland Copper this time.

We must remember that Michigan has the Public Trust Doctrine to preserve our Great Lakes resources.

I know that you will vote to not approve and to preserve Our Beloved Beautiful Porkies.

Sincerely,
Barbara (Iris) Potter
Kalamazoo, MI

BARAGA COUNTY CLERK
Register of Deeds

Wendy J. Goodreau
CLERK/REGISTER

BARAGA COUNTY 1875 STATE OF MICHIGAN

2 South Main Street • L'Anse, MI 49946–1085
906.524.6100 Ext. 301 • Fax: 906.524.6432

Carrie Forcia
DEPUTY

Anna Gaffney
DEPUTY

August 21, 2026

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members,

The Baraga County Board of Commissioners approved a unanimous resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company on August 21, 2026. As the County Board has taken no further action on the matter of Copperwood Mine subsequent to the resolution, the County Board remains in support of the project.

Sincerely,

Brad Dakota, Board of Commissioners Chairman

Baraga County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION
SUPPORT FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT OF
HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the BARAGA COUNTY recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the BARAGA COUNTY fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF BARAGA)

I, WENDY J. GOODREAU, Clerk of the Baraga County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Baraga, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board on November 13, 2023.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County and Circuit Court at L'Anse, Michigan this 15th day of November 2023.

Wendy J Goodreau

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk

From: Christine Olgren
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: Copperwood Project, Michigan Strategic Fund
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:17:42 PM

Ironwood, MI I have spent much time in this area and love its unmatched beauty. We need to consider not only short-term profits but also the long-term value of pristine nature for a healthy environment that supports future generations.

Thank you, Christine Olgren
4518 Bellevue Court
McFarland, WI 53558
Born and raised in Ironwood, MI
upnorth881@gmail.com

Ironwood, MI I have spent much time in this area and love its unmatched beauty. We need to consider not only short-term profits but also the long-term value of pristine nature for a healthy environment that supports future generations.

Thank you, Christine Olgren
4518 Bellevue Court
McFarland, WI 53558
Born and raised in Ironwood, MI
upnorth881@gmail.com

Ironwood, MI I have spent much time in this area and love its unmatched beauty. We need to consider not only short-term profits but also the long-term value of pristine nature for a healthy environment that supports future generations.

Thank you, Christine Olgren
4518 Bellevue Court
McFarland, WI 53558
Born and raised in Ironwood, MI

upnorth881@gmail.com

From:	Connie M Jones
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Say No to Copperwood Mine
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 12:17:17 PM

I am writing to ask you to say NO to awarding $50 million taxpayer dollars to the out-of-state Copperwood Mine proposal next to the Porcupine Mountains, Lake Superior, and the North Country Trail.

This is an inexperienced foreign company, whose latest annual report warns of "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, existing copper mines are already exceeding demand, so there is no need to accelerate a new one, especially in this pristine natural location.

This is an unproven company which has already been fined $25,000 for ignoring permits, and which the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community says has been deceptive in their reports to the Tribal Council.

These are OUR taxpayer dollars that would be at risk. The risk includes destroying these areas of natural beauty that Michiganders highly value.

I ask you to use commonsense business logic - there is too much risk here and not nearly enough possible benefits for this to be a reasonable deal.

Again, I ask you to say NO to awarding $50 million taxpayer dollars to the out-of-state Copperwood Mine proposal.

Thank you.

Connie M. Jones
1610 S Pennsylvania Ave
Lansing MI 48910

MEMORANDUM

Why The Michigan Strategic Fund Should Oppose the Copperwood Mine

To: Michigan Strategic Fund Board and State Legislators
From: Cindy L. Warner, past Michigan Strategic Fund Board Member
Date: August 24, 2026
Re: Opposition to state funding and permitting of the Copperwood sulfide mine, Gogebic County, MI

Summary
Highland Copper's proposed Copperwood project would open the closest sulfide-ore mine to Lake Superior ever attempted, storing tens of millions of tons of toxic mine waste roughly two miles from the shoreline of the largest freshwater lake in the world. The company is asking Michigan taxpayers for $50 million even though it has not demonstrated it can fund the remaining balance of a $425 million project, has never operated a mine before, and has already been fined for unpermitted wetland impacts at this same site. Given the scale of what is at risk — Lake Superior's water quality, protected wetlands and old-growth forest, an endangered fish species, and treaty-protected hunting, fishing, and gathering rights — the state should decline further public funding and the pending discharge permit until far more rigorous, independent scrutiny has occurred. Below is the case for that opposition.

1. The project puts Lake Superior itself at risk
Sulfide-ore copper mining has an exceptionally poor environmental track record: one widely cited 2012 study found that 92% of U.S. copper sulfide mines failed to contain seepage from their waste, despite modern engineering and regulatory promises. Copperwood would test that record in the worst possible location — mining within roughly 100 feet of Lake Superior at points, with a 320-acre tailings basin about two miles from the shore, built on ground that slopes toward the lake. The tailings dam is reportedly engineered to withstand only a 1-in-100-year storm, yet the region has already experienced two 1-in-1,000-year storm events in the past decade. Modeling cited by opponents shows that if the dam failed, mine waste could reach Lake Superior in a matter of minutes. Lake Superior holds roughly 10% of the world's surface fresh water; a spill of this kind would not be a local, correctable event.

2. The waste math is unfavorable, and it is permanent
Only about 1.5% of the rock Copperwood would extract is usable copper. The remaining 98.5% — an estimated 30 million tons over the life of the mine — becomes sulfide waste that must be stored and managed forever, since sulfide waste continues generating acidic, metal-laden drainage indefinitely once exposed to air and water. The mine itself is projected to operate for only about 11 years. In other words, Michigan would accept a permanent, open-ended environmental liability in exchange for roughly a decade of extraction.

3. Direct habitat and watershed damage, independent of any accident
Even if no dam ever fails, construction and operation of the mine as permitted would clearcut forest adjacent to the Presque Isle Scenic Area, fill more than 60 acres of wetlands, and disturb over 16,000 linear feet of streams. The site borders the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park — home to the largest old-growth forest remaining in the Midwest — and sits near the North Country National Scenic Trail. The mine's NPDES discharge permit would allow up to 500,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater into Namebinag Creek, upstream of habitat for the redside dace, a state-listed endangered fish. Advocates for the fish, including Protect the Porkies, say neither the company nor Michigan's environmental agency (EGLE) has made clear what specific protections are in place for this species during permit renewal, and that the company's own endangered-species study has not been made public.

4. The project runs through treaty-protected land and water
The mine site lies within territory ceded under the 1842 Treaty, where Ojibwe/Anishinaabe treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather remain in force. Tribal members and allies have organized water walks and demonstrations specifically over Copperwood, arguing that heavy metals in mine waste — mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium — bioaccumulate up the food chain from water to fish, plants, and game, ultimately reaching people who rely on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering in the region. This is not a symbolic objection: contamination of shared waters and fisheries would directly affect rights the state and federal governments are obligated to honor.

5. The financial case for taxpayer support is weak

- Highland Copper needs $425 million to build the mine but, has raised only a small fraction of that in private capital — **in two (2) years** - a signal that sophisticated investors are not confident in the project after roughly 15 years of development. On September 16, 2025, the Export-Import Bank of the United States issued a non-binding Letter of Interest (LOI) to provide up to $250 million in debt financing for the proposed Highland Copper Company Inc. Copperwood Project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This is a **non-binding letter of intent that does not indicate they will fund this project** but merely they will allow Highland Copper Company to apply for financing. This entity has a current market cap of $77M due only to the fact that they have issued a substantial number of shares in excess of 700 million, but their share price is $.009 as of this writing. This company is barely considered solvent. Further, with minimal revenue ($9M last quarter) this company could not even service the debt interest if the Export-Import Bank did approve a loan. If the MSF requires a bond from the company (as it should), there is absolutely no way for this company to obtain one, yet if the project has environmental damage, the company would simply file for insolvency and leave the State of Michigan to clean up the mess.
- Michigan's own Legislature has rejected the $50 million Strategic Site Readiness Program grant twice already (blocked in committee in 2024; stripped from the budget in October 2025) — this is now a third attempt at approval the Legislature has twice declined to make.
- Highland Copper has never operated a producing mine and has already drawn fines for unpermitted wetland impacts at the Copperwood site itself, raising questions about its capacity to manage a far more complex construction and operating phase.
- The mine would create an estimated 380 jobs for roughly 11 years — a short-term employment bump relative to a waste-storage liability that lasts indefinitely — and the refined copper is expected to be shipped out of the country for processing, with no guarantee it returns to U.S. manufacturing.
- The current extreme price for copper that are used in the economics for this mine are not sustainable. This price has been artificially inflated by the hoarding that has occurred due to the current administration's repeated threat of tariffs. In fact, 2025 was the highest surplus of copper ever recorded in history in the US.

Put simply: this is a proposal to backstop, with public money, a project that private capital markets have not fully backed on their own merits. This is not a proper use of Michigan taxpayer dollars.

6. Opposition is broad, organized, and sustained
This is not a fringe objection. Over 100 Michigan organizations have formally opposed the project, a public petition has drawn more than 465,000 signatures, and public hearings on the mine's permits have not shown unanimous local support. The Legislature's repeated refusal to release the $50 million grant — across two separate legislative sessions — reflects genuine, persistent doubt about the project's merits, not procedural delay.

Key figures at a glance

Figure	What it means for the risk case
~100 feet	Closest a sulfide ore body has ever been mined to Lake Superior's shoreline.
320-acre tailings basin, ~2 miles from shore	Sits on ground that slopes toward the lake; modeling cited by opponents shows a dam failure could reach Lake Superior within roughly 21 minutes.
1.5% / 98.5%	Share of mined rock that is usable copper vs. sulfide waste — about 30 million tons of waste requiring permanent storage.
11 years	Projected mine life. The waste basin and its contamination risk remain indefinitely after mining ends.
$425 million	Total capital Highland Copper says it needs to build the mine — capital opponents say the company has struggled for years to fully line up.
$50 million	State grant requested from Michigan taxpayers, rejected by the Legislature twice (2024, 2025) before a third attempt in 2026.
500,000 gal/day	Treated wastewater the mine is permitted to discharge into Namebinag Creek, upstream of habitat for the state-listed redside dace.

Recommendation
The Strategic Fund Board and Legislature should decline to release the $50 million grant, and EGLE should not finalize the pending discharge permit, until: (1) Highland Copper demonstrates fully committed private financing for the entire $425 million project, independent of the state grant; (2) an independent, third-party review of the tailings dam design addresses the extreme-storm and rapid-failure scenarios raised by hydrologists and opponents; (3) the company's endangered-species (redside dace) study is made public and reviewed; and (4) the state completes formal consultation with affected tribal nations regarding treaty rights. Absent those steps, approving public funding or final permits would place Lake Superior, protected wilderness, an endangered species, and treaty rights at risk in exchange for a short-lived mine that the private market has not been willing to fully finance on its own.

Acknowledging the other side
Fairness requires noting the project's stated case: Highland Copper and local supporters point to roughly 380 jobs and $425 million in investment for a struggling regional economy in Gogebic County, argue that copper is a critical mineral for the clean-energy transition and domestic supply chains, and

note that EGLE — the state's own environmental regulator — has so far maintained that the discharge permit's design does not threaten the redside dace's habitat. Some western U.P. residents and local officials have publicly urged the Legislature to release the funding. Weighing those economic and supply-chain arguments against the environmental, financial, and treaty-rights concerns above is ultimately the judgment call facing the Michigan Strategic Fund — this memo argues the latter concerns should prevail, but the tradeoff is real and contested.

Sources

- Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior, "Copperwood" — citizensforsuperior.org/copperwood
- Michigan Advance, "Environmentalists rally around endangered fish as EGLE takes comment on Copperwood Mine permit," May 2026
- Newsweek, "Lake Superior at Risk From 'Dangerous' Copper Mine," 2026
- Weave News, "How Many Drops in a Tidal Wave? Tribal Members and Allies Carry Water 31 Miles in Response to Proposed Copperwood Mine," Oct. 2024
- Bridge Michigan, "Michigan approves $50M for Upper Peninsula copper mine — but with conditions," 2024
- Bridge Michigan, "Lawmakers try again to get $50M for controversial Copperwood mine in UP"
- Hoodline, "Upper Peninsula Copper Mine's $50M State Grant Faces Third Try Monday," Aug. 2026
- Highland Copper, Copperwood Project Overview — highlandcopper.com/projects/copperwood-project

Gogebic County
Board of Commissioners

GOGEBIC COUNTY COURT HOUSE

JULIANE M. GIACKINO
ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA L. PARKER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DAN SIIRILA - CHAIRMAN
PETER MATONICH - VICE CHAIRMAN
JOSEPH CAYER
JAMES LORENSON
GEORGE PETERSON III
DANIEL WOOD
MICHAEL YON

August 21, 2026

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

The Gogebic County Board of Commissioners approved a unanimous resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine Project by Highland Copper Company in Gogebic County Michigan on February 12th, 2025. Resolutions support clear choices and policy positions and are recorded in the Board's official meeting minutes once they are approved. The Gogebic County Board of Commissioners has not rescinded or replaced this resolution; therefore, it is still supported as a recorded resolution by the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Juliane M. Giackino
Gogebic County Administrator

A26020

Gogebic County is "an equal opportunity provider and employer"
200 N. MOORE STREET
COURTHOUSE ◦ BESSEMER, MICHIGAN 49911
WWW.GOGEBIC.GOV
PHONE: (906) 667-0411 ◦ FAX: (906) 667-1102
EMAIL: jgiackino@gogebic.gov

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Gogebic County

200 N. Moore St.

Bessemer, Michigan 49911

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF GOGEBIC
STATE OF MICHIGAN

At a regular session of the said Board, held in the City of Bessemer, in said County, on the 12th day of February 2025 the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION 2025-3
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At the Regular Meeting of the County Commissioners of Gogebic County, duly held on February 12, 2025, duly held in the Gogebic County District Courtroom, the following Resolution was offered by Yon, supported by Cayer.

PRESENT: All
ABSENT: None

WHEREAS the County of Gogebic supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the County of Gogebic acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the County of Gogebic recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy, and;

WHEREAS the County of Gogebic acknowledges the critical importance of securing approval of a grant for infrastructure for roads, energy and broadband that provide the infrastructure necessary for local the community's ability to host the mine from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic Site Readiness fund.:

County of Gogebic

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the [~~MUNICIPAL NAME~~] fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project and the Michigan Economic Develop Corporation Grant.

Upon roll call vote the following voted

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) SS

COUNTY OF GOGEBIC)

I, Erin E. Bunt, Clerk of the County of Gogebic, and the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on February 12, 2025.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County of Gogebic, on this 13th day of February, 2025 at Bessemer, Michigan.

Erin E. Bunt

Erin E. Bunt

From:	K Hernandez
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	MSF: Deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:21:03 PM

Dear Boardmembers,

I am writing today to urge the board to deny funding to Copperwood Resources Inc. By most accounts this is an inexperienced foreign company, whose latest annual report warns of "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern." This is an unproven company which has already been fined $25,000 for ignoring permits, and which the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community says has been deceptive in their reports to the Tribal Council.

The mine would impose air, light, noise, and water pollution into Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, the most visited State Park in the Upper Peninsula, the most beautiful State Park in the country, the largest old growth forest between the Mississippi River and the Adirondacks, and a place that proud Michiganders fought to see protected specifically from encroaching industry.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, existing copper mines are already exceeding demand, so there's no need to accelerate a new one at an abominable location. As a former resident who plans to return the state, I am deeply concerned about the fiscal and environmental consequences that are likely to arise in the vicinity of this pristine state park.

As stated above, there is too much at stake. Please deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.

Sincerely,
Karina Hernandez
Lowell, MI 49331
North Hollywood, CA 91602

From:	Hills
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Please Deny Copperwood Grant
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 7:27:59 PM

Hello,

My name is Hillary Sundquist, and I am writing to you today to ask, once again, for the denial of the $50 million grant to the Copperwood Mine project.

I am a lifelong Michigander, I know our history. In knowing our past, I better understand our present and future—a future that is not made better by the financing and support of this project. We know how devastating it has been to see our state used for its natural resources and then left to pick up the pieces when the boom dies down. We've seen too many communities built up around promises unable to be kept.

On the agenda for 8/25/26, this project is listed under "Attract, Retain, and Grow Business". This is a finite project--there is a finite amount of actual copper that would even be possible to get from this mine; most of what would be produced is toxic waste, which we then would have looming over our land and water. Do we really want to be attracting exploitative, finite, and absolutely not growable or sustainable business models to Michigan? And besides that, give our money to this project and encourage other companies to take and dump whatever they like?

All that we have left here in Michigan is our land and our lakes and the reason we have what we do is because the people of Michigan have stood up to protect it. When our tax dollars are going to finance investments, they have to be aligned with the needs of not just the present, but the respect of our past, tending to our future, and to nurturing forests we will never see in our lifetimes. That is to say, we are all responsible for making sure that decisions we make now are not short-sighted.

Financing this project with our tax dollars is short-sighted. As has been shown multiple times now over the last few years, Highland Copper is an inexperienced foreign company, whose latest annual report warns of "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern."

Does that really inspire you to utilize our cash flow in this way? They already have shown (see attached AP article) that they are willing to inflict damage on our lands and only did anything about it because they were caught and forced to. The article states that "due to the severity of the noncompliance, the matter is being evaluated for escalated enforcement." This was in 2017! How did we even get here, nearly 10 years later, where we are thinking of allowing taxpayer money to go to this company?

To add, this kind of industry has seen it's run in our state already. We saw what happened with that and the holes it left behind; do we really want to repeat these same mistakes? We need to have our money go into projects that will give a real, long-term financial future to Michigan. We need innovation, not repetition. We need to invest in projects that will actually give back to Michigan and the communities they are coming into, not ones that are extracting something out and leaving us to deal with the fallout.

Additionally, the mine would impose air, light, noise, and water pollution into Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, the most visited State Park in the Upper Peninsula. It is the largest old growth forest between the Mississippi River and the Adirondacks and a place that proud Michiganders fought to see protected specifically from encroaching industry. We must learn and respect our past in order to have a better present and more secure future.

In closing, this grant funding for the Copperwood Mine is not in the best interest of Michiganders, it is not in the best interest of the long-term security of Gogebic County, Wakefield and Ironwood Townships and the people that live there and absolutely not in the interest of our most precious resources for our state: The Land and The Lakes. We do not need to be taking on so much risk and making such a large financial choice to a foreign company that when things go wrong, and it will, can scoot off back over the border.

Think of the long-term. Think of the fallout. Think of the amount of resources potentially needed if and when this project goes south. That will mean even more taxpayer money trying to hold accountable and entity that will have already gotten what they wanted, leaving us financially worse off and dealing with damage that could last for generations.

Denying this $50 million grant now could save us millions more in lawsuits and repair costs in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Hillary Sundquist

HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

August 21, 2026

Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

At the November 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #23-22 and in that Resolution, it states:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners has not voted to change that Resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

/jk

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

#23-22

WHEREAS the Houghton County Board of Commissioners supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;

WHEREAS the Houghton County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;

WHEREAS the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project.

Moved by Commissioner: Janssen

Supported by Commissioner: Britz

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Janssen, Britz, Tikkanen, Anderson

No: None

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commission

11/14/23
Date

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of Houghton County, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted November 14, 2023, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

From:	Jerry Ladewig
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Copperwood Mine Proposal
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 6:38:06 PM

Please do not fund this project proposed by an inadequately
prepared miner.
I have been going to the Porcupine Mountains in 4 seasons since the mid-70's for its beauty, wildness, and personal respite. I always spend money in the area. Hiking or skiing there, watching the Lake Superior waves roll in, provides a calmness of the soul that could be disrupted by the clanking of heavy machinery.
The reason people go there would be destroyed by such sounds, and the visuals of heavy equipment, that have no place near a wilderness.
We all know the sources of the Porcupine Mountains' water is inland, which would be disrupted by disturbing the surface landscape and the deeper, hard-rock mining that would take place, should you fund this project. When disturbed, copper sulfides are released into the atmosphere. contributing to "acid rain" which can result in immeasurable damage to the surrounding environment and health of those who live nearby, visitors, and others wherever this material blows in the air and precipitates.
Remember, once a resource is damaged, it cannot be restored. Repeat: cannot be restored to its earlier, clean, unpolluted condition.
The fish can't speak for themselves, but salmon, steelhead and brook trout use the Presque Isle river for feeding and spawning. I have seen some sizeable ones there.
The Animikiiwadiswan people do not want this on lands critical to their heritage and are supported by many other native tribes.
In short, many, many people do not support funding this project by Michigan residents. Many of us live outside Michigan but regularly recreate there.
Please vote NO on funding this project.
Thank you for reading. Jerry Ladewig
2340 Judith Ln., Waukesha, WI 53188

From:	John Gillette
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Oppose Highland Copper Funding
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 2:44:54 PM

My name is John Gillette. I am a resident of Michigan and live in the Lake Superior watershed in the upper peninsula.

In the interest of the future health of all residents in the watershed and ecological systems on which we all depend, I oppose any and all tax-payer based funding for the initiation and expansion of mining projects in the watershed. In brief, the short-term financial gain for the few people involved should not be funded by tax money, especially in exchange of the long-term negative impacts to the health of the environment on which we depend.

As planned with such mining projects, the taxpayers pay the initial funding and then pay again for mitigating the harmful effects of the toxicity leftover after the company has sold off the property and another environmental catastrophe becomes the responsibility of the locals. Indeed without tax money this project is not financially feasible.

Other institutions and industries in our state could this $50 million. There is a long list of companies and organizations that are helping preserve the environmental health and characteristics of the state and its watersheds that could benefit more from this $50 million, and for a longer time frame while creating more jobs that are sustainable. Prioritize those.

Michiganders do not need to sustain the 320-acre toxic lake that Canadian-owned Highland Copper proposes to build. We need to sustain the freshwater lakes and ecosystems that we have currently. Please do not waste taxpayer money, as allocated by the Michigan Strategic Fund, on this project.

Thank you.

John Gillette
Marquette, MI

From: Karen Grotewohl
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: Deny the grant funding to Highland Copper!
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:37:13 AM

I implore you to deny this 50 million dollars of tax payer funding to Highland Copper for the Copperwood mine in Gogebic County! This project would be destrastous for the tourism industry in this area. As a business and property owner in Wakefield Township, I see this as just another greedy grab by big money interests at the expense of my community and the exceptional natural beauty and fresh water of Lake Superior.

There is tremendous push back against this project. There are better uses for this grant money!

Karen Grotewohl
Wakefield Township

From:	K Hernandez
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	MSF: Deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:21:03 PM

Dear Boardmembers,

I am writing today to urge the board to deny funding to Copperwood Resources Inc. By most accounts this is an inexperienced foreign company, whose latest annual report warns of "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern." This is an unproven company which has already been fined $25,000 for ignoring permits, and which the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community says has been deceptive in their reports to the Tribal Council.

The mine would impose air, light, noise, and water pollution into Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, the most visited State Park in the Upper Peninsula, the most beautiful State Park in the country, the largest old growth forest between the Mississippi River and the Adirondacks, and a place that proud Michiganders fought to see protected specifically from encroaching industry.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, existing copper mines are already exceeding demand, so there's no need to accelerate a new one at an abominable location. As a former resident who plans to return the state, I am deeply concerned about the fiscal and environmental consequences that are likely to arise in the vicinity of this pristine state park.

As stated above, there is too much at stake. Please deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.

Sincerely,
Karina Hernandez
Lowell, MI 49331
North Hollywood, CA 91602

From: Kyle Mayes
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: Request to NOT fund Copperwood Mines
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:46:04 PM

Hello,

I am not to show my support in-person but I must share my thoughts about your consideration for the Copperwood Mines. Please DO NOT allow funding towards this mining.

In a time where we face the extreme effects of climate change daily, from storm-related power outages, floods, wildfires, and extreme heat, our environment and land MUST be protected at all cost. Michiganders are privileged to have access to so many natural beauties. We do not need to hand our land and water over for corporate (not to mention foreign) profit! This is not a benefit to Michiganders. We want clean and fresh water. We want a habitable future for our children. We want to move in the direction of working for the best interest of the people and not the billionaires.

Sincerely, Kyle Mayes

From:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Cc:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
Subject:	Written public comment — Agenda Item VI.a, Copperwood Mine Project, August 25, 2026
Date:	Saturday, August 22, 2026 9:39:50 PM
Attachments:	Copperwood_InvestUP_LakeSuperiorRegister.pdf

To the members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

I am submitting written material relating to Agenda Item VI.a on the August 25, 2026 agenda — the resolution to approve a Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant of $44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc. and $5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission.

I am the editor of the Lake Superior Register, an independent publication in Gogebic County. I am not asking the Board to vote any particular way. I am submitting three documented findings that bear on the record before you, so that they are in the packet rather than absent from it.

1. The reclamation shortfall. Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit No. MP 01 2012, Special Condition N.1, sets the estimated financial assurance for reclamation at closure at $37,960,000 as of the permit's issuance in April 2012. Highland Copper's own audited consolidated financial statements report a surety bond of $6,479,089, secured July 2023. That is roughly seventeen cents on the dollar, measured against a fourteen-year-old estimate.

2. The triennial updates. General Permit Condition F.6 requires an updated reclamation cost estimate on or before March 15 of every third year following issuance. I have been unable to locate any such update in the public file, and I have an outstanding inquiry with EGLE on this point. If the Board is relying on a current figure, I would be glad to be corrected.

3. Disclosure. InvestUP has advocated publicly for this grant and stated in a December 2024 release that mine closure and remediation costs are "covered by the company, no matter what." InvestUP's IRS Form 990 for fiscal year 2024 (EIN 82-2441360, Part VII Section A) lists Barry O'Shea, Chief Executive Officer of Highland Copper Company, as a voting director. That relationship is not disclosed in the releases themselves. The same return reports that officers and directors are not required to disclose conflicts annually (Part VI Section B, line 12b).

Each of these is verifiable from primary documents. Citations and the underlying reporting are in the attached article, published at https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/9Ux9wcuq33P0NuugMBV4-jLi0TLZeIlaHhixAW4LCDXLQxknN1Hp~WSWYE7NoeTOYjb850G9PbByuRKutXpCtopSKRpuinKQ-YQMkn8twqKqXYeq6kjvN5FO6dfW5Q2Fmv~dcIKYVu6VwZ89gVw7CMhVyLdAk5A8V7UnWt0sBf1-BRrgTvdUSO1udm .

I would welcome any correction from the Board, from MEDC staff, from Highland Copper, or from InvestUP, and I will publish any response I receive in full.

Respectfully,

Donald F. Dey
Editor, Lake Superior Register
https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/9Ux9wcuq33P0NuugMBV4-jLi0TLZeIlaHhixAW4LCDXLQxknN1Hp~WSWYE7NoeTOYjb850G9PbByuRKutXpCtopSKRpuinKQ-YQMkn8twqKqXYeq6kjvN5FO6dfW5Q2Fmv~dcIKYVu6VwZ89gVw7CMhVyLdAk5A8V7UnWt0sBf1-BRrgTvdUSO1udm
Bessemer, Michigan

The attached article, "Copperwood Mine: The Group Vouching for the Mine Has the Mine's CEO on Its Board," contains full citations and is published at https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/9Ux9wcuq33P0NuugMBV4-jLi0TLZeIlaHhixAW4LCDXLQxknN1Hp~WSWYE7NoeTOYjb850G9PbByuRKutXpCtopSKRpuinKQ-YQMkn8twqKqXYeq6kjvN5FO6dfW5Q2Fmv~dcIKYVu6VwZ89gVw7CMhVyLdAk5A8V7UnWt0sBf1-BRrgTvdUSO1udm .

THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGISTER
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ON THE WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA • GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Copperwood Mine: The Group Vouching for the Mine Has the Mine's CEO on Its Board

InvestUP said the cleanup is covered "no matter what." The state holds $6.5 million against a $37.96 million estimate — and the mine's CEO sits on InvestUP's board.

THIRD IN A SERIES ON THE MONEY BEHIND THE COPPERWOOD MINE

Everything here comes from documents you can read yourself. Sources are at the end. Previous pieces at lakesuperiorregister.com.

The short version

An organization called InvestUP has spent two years telling the Michigan Legislature, the press, and the people of Gogebic County that the Copperwood Mine deserves a $50 million public grant.

In one of those releases, InvestUP told the public that the mine's cleanup costs are covered by the company "no matter what."

$37,960,000
STATE'S ESTIMATED RECLAMATION COST

$6,479,089
THE BOND ACTUALLY ON FILE

And the chief executive of the mining company sits on InvestUP's board of directors.

None of InvestUP's releases about the Copperwood Mine mention that last part.

That's the whole story. The rest of this is the evidence.

The sentence

In December 2024, InvestUP published a press release headlined **"Don't Let Misinformation Kill a Once in a Generation Opportunity."** (1) It was a fact-check. Nine bullet points under the heading "Here are the facts." The last one:

> *"As required by Michigan law, Highland Copper maintains a bond with the state to ensure that the cost of mine closure and remediation is covered by the company, no matter what."*

Here is what Michigan's mining permit actually says, in Special Condition N.1:

> *"The total financial assurance estimated for the Copperwood Mine for reclamation costs at the closure stage of production is determined to be $37,960,000 as of the date this permit was issued."* (2)

That permit was issued in April 2012. The bond currently on file, according to the company's own audited financial statements, is **$6,479,089**. (3) About seventeen cents on the dollar, measured against a fourteen-year-old estimate. I wrote about that gap two weeks ago, before I knew this press release existed.

Who InvestUP is

InvestUP calls itself the regional economic development organization for the Upper Peninsula, working across all fifteen counties. Its chief executive is Marty Fittante, who spent fourteen years working in the Michigan Legislature before taking the job in 2019. (4)

Nobody expects InvestUP to be neutral about economic development. Promoting it is the organization's stated purpose, and it does real work on housing, workforce, and business growth across a region that badly needs all three.

But a booster saying "this project would be good for us" is a different thing from a booster saying "here are the facts, ignore the misinformation." The second one asks you to trust it as a referee. And that's when it matters who is on the team.

The name on the list

InvestUP files an IRS Form 990 every year. It is a public document. Anyone can read it on ProPublica's Nonprofit Explorer.

The 2024 return lists thirty-three voting directors. Number twenty-four is **Barry O'Shea**. (5)

Barry O'Shea is the Chief Executive Officer of Highland Copper Company — the parent company of Copperwood Resources Inc., which owns the Copperwood Mine.

He is quoted by name, as Highland Copper's CEO, in that same December 2024 release and in at least four others InvestUP has published about the project. (1, 6, 7, 8) One of them is datelined "Marquette, Mich. and Vancouver, Canada," carries both organizations' logos, and lists media contacts for both.

So when InvestUP told Michigan that Copperwood's cleanup costs were covered no matter what, the organization saying it had the company's chief executive on its board.

None of the releases mention that.

What the governance answers say

The same Form 990 asks a series of standard questions about how a nonprofit polices itself. (5)

Line 12a: Does the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? **Yes.**

Line 12b: Are officers, directors, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? **No.**

Line 13: Whistleblower policy? **No.** Line 14: Document retention and destruction policy? **No.**

Schedule O explains that the expectation is for a conflicted director to recuse himself, "as evidenced by past practice."

That is an honor system. It may work fine. But it is worth knowing that it is the only mechanism in place on a board where one member's company is the subject of the organization's most sustained public advocacy campaign.

One more number from the same return: of $2,311,288 in contributions and grants, **$1,626,053 came from government grants.** (5) InvestUP is substantially funded by public money.

The poll released days before the vote

On the morning of Friday, August 21, 2026, InvestUP issued a press release announcing new statewide polling conducted by EPIC-MRA. The headline number: **71 percent of Michigan voters support the Copperwood Project.** The release added that 46 percent of respondents expressed some concern about environmental impact, and that 61 percent remained in favor after environmental factors were considered. (13) WLUC TV6 and WUPM both carried it. (13, 14)

EPIC-MRA is a legitimate firm. It has operated in Lansing since 1985 and is the most frequently cited pollster in Michigan, quoted by NBC, CBS, CNN, NPR, and most major newspapers in the state. Nothing here questions their competence.

What is missing is everything a reader would need to evaluate the number. The release did not disclose who commissioned the poll. It did not give the sample size, the field dates, the margin of error, or — most importantly — the wording of the questions asked. When EPIC-MRA polls for media clients, the full instrument is routinely published; WOOD TV, for example, posts the complete frequency-of-response tables. Nothing comparable was released here.

That matters because EPIC-MRA, like most survey firms, runs a monthly statewide omnibus survey in which outside organizations can purchase a battery of questions. Under that arrangement, a poll can accurately be described as "conducted by EPIC-MRA" while the questions themselves were written and paid for by an interested party. I do not know whether that is what happened here. I asked.

Tom Grotewohl of Protect the Porkies called the poll "bogus" and argued that question wording drives the result. (13) He may be right, but neither he nor I can demonstrate it without seeing the instrument.

The timing is a matter of public record. The Michigan Strategic Fund Board is scheduled to take up roughly $50 million in state support for Copperwood infrastructure in the coming days — the third such attempt, after the first stalled in Senate Appropriations in 2024 and a second was stripped from the state budget in October 2025. (15, 16)

A favorable poll, released by the project's principal advocacy organization, with no methodology attached, on the last business day before that vote.

The pattern

InvestUP's handling of public money has drawn scrutiny before, and the reporting is not mine.

In August 2025, Craig Mauger of The Detroit News published "Nonprofit uses tax money to fund 'upscale' U.P. apartments developed by its founder." (9) The story concerns a $15 million state earmark to InvestUP for housing, and money flowing to apartments developed by Robert Mahaney, who was InvestUP's chairman at the time. The Detroit News followed with additional reporting in December 2025. (10, 11)

Mahaney remains on the board; he appears as director number nineteen on the same Form 990. (5)

He has responded publicly. In an October 2025 Q&A with The Mining Journal, Mahaney said his company followed every applicable guideline, never sought favorable treatment, never spoke with Build UP decision-makers about the awards, and that board membership at InvestUP follows automatically from being one of roughly thirty-five member organizations. (12)

I have not independently verified The Detroit News reporting. I cite it as published work by a statewide newspaper, for context — not as a finding of my own. Readers should read it and judge for themselves.

The relevance here is narrow and I want to state it precisely: an organization substantially funded by public money, whose stewardship of public money has already been the subject of newspaper investigation, does not require its directors to disclose conflicts annually — and has the CEO of the mine it promotes sitting on its board.

Questions this raises

These questions are open to InvestUP, to Highland Copper, and to any member of InvestUP's board:

When did Barry O'Shea join the InvestUP board? Did he recuse himself from any decision relating to InvestUP's Copperwood advocacy? Is Highland Copper a dues-paying member or financial contributor to InvestUP?

Who commissioned the EPIC-MRA polling released on August 21, and will the full question wording and methodology be made public?

And on what basis did InvestUP tell the public that closure costs are covered "no matter what"?

I have not received answers to any of these. I will publish any response I get, in full, including any that shows I have gotten something wrong.

Questions also remain outstanding with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy: whether the reclamation cost estimate updates required every three years by General Permit Condition F.6 have ever been filed, and what the state's current cleanup estimate is in today's dollars. (2)

Twenty-two units of local government passed resolutions supporting this project. They were reading material like this. I would like to know whether anyone showed them the permit at the same time.

Previous pieces: "Copperwood Mine: The $31 Million Hole in the Cleanup Fund" and "Copperwood Mine: Its Owner Told Investors It Might Not Survive." How this publication is researched and written, including my use of AI as a research and drafting tool, is on the About page.

SOURCES

1. InvestUP, "Don't Let Misinformation Kill a Once in a Generation Opportunity," December 16, 2024. investupmi.com.
2. Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit No. MP 01 2012, Special Permit Conditions § N.1. Permit issued April 30, 2012. General Permit Conditions § F.6 requires an updated reclamation cost estimate on or before March 15 of every third year after issuance.
3. Highland Copper Company Inc., Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024: surety bond of $6,479,089 secured July 2023 as financial assurance for the Copperwood Project.
4. InvestUP, "Meet the Team," investupmi.com.
5. Invest Up, IRS Form 990 for fiscal year ending December 2024, EIN 82-2441360, filed January 2026. Part VII Section A (directors); Part VI Section B lines 12a, 12b, 13, 14; Schedule O; Part VIII line 1e. Available at ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer.
6. InvestUP, "Upper Peninsula Leaders Commend $50 Million State Investment in Copperwood Mine Project," 2024.
7. InvestUP, "Western Upper Peninsula Communities Demonstrate Continued Support for the Copperwood Mine Project," datelined Marquette, Mich. and Vancouver, Canada.
8. InvestUP, "'We're Not Slowing Down': U.P. Resilience Powers Copperwood Mine Project Despite State Budget Decision," 2025.
9. Craig Mauger, The Detroit News, August 26, 2025: "Nonprofit uses tax money to fund 'upscale' U.P. apartments developed by its founder." Also carried by The Mining Journal, August 28, 2025.
10. The Detroit News, December 8, 2025: "U.P. business group reported lobbyist, whiskey glass bills after getting taxpayer cash."
11. The Detroit News, December 8, 2025: "3 projects involving same U.P. developer netted help from state lawmakers."
12. The Mining Journal, October 23, 2025: "Mahaney addresses Detroit News article in Q&A session."
13. WLUC TV6, August 21, 2026: "Poll suggests 71% of Michiganders support Copperwood Project; Protect the Porkies calls poll 'bogus.'"
14. WUPM 106.9, August 21, 2026, news summary carrying the InvestUP polling release.
15. Bridge Michigan, October 2025: reporting on the removal of $50 million for Copperwood infrastructure from the state budget.
16. Reporting on the Michigan Strategic Fund Board's scheduled reconsideration of approximately $50 million in state support for the Copperwood Project, August 2026.

From:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Cc:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
Subject:	Correction to my written comment — Agenda Item VI.a, Copperwood Mine Project, August 25, 2026
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 9:05:37 AM

To the members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

I submitted written comment on Agenda Item VI.a on August 22 and a supplement on August 23. This morning I received a response from EGLE's Geologic Resources Management Division to a records inquiry I had pending, and it corrects two things I told you. I am writing before the deadline so the record is accurate ahead of tomorrow's vote.

What I got wrong.

I characterized the $6,479,089 surety instrument as reclamation assurance held against the $37,960,000 closure figure in Special Condition N.1, and described the difference as a shortfall. That was incorrect. GRMD states the amount is two separate surety bonds filed for early site works: $4,752,500 required under the Part 301/302 inland lakes, streams and wetlands permit, now expired, for wetland and stream mitigation; and the remainder filed with GRMD under the mining permit for restoration of upland staging areas and abandonment of groundwater monitoring wells. It was not intended to cover closure.

I also said the triennial reclamation cost estimate updates required by General Permit Condition F.6 could not be located in the public file. GRMD states those updates begin once the permit is effective and the mine is operating, and Copperwood has not started operations. They are not overdue.

What GRMD told me instead.

The Copperwood mining permit is issued but not effective. Under Part 632, R 425.301, a mining permit is not effective until the permittee establishes financial assurance in the amount the permit requires. GRMD states that financial assurance is currently the only outstanding requirement before the permit becomes effective. The permittee must submit an updated financial assurance amount to advance to the construction stage, and in GRMD's words, "GRMD has not yet received this FA update for review."

GRMD also notes that R 425.301(3) permits up to 25 percent of required financial assurance to be satisfied by a statement of financial responsibility rather than a posted instrument, and that Copperwood Resources Inc. has not proposed one.

What stands.

The security disclosures in Highland Copper's annual statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 are unchanged: a mortgage on the Copperwood property and a general security agreement including a pledge of the shares of Copperwood Resources Inc., the entity that holds the permit.

So is the InvestUP item, and I would note it now reads differently. InvestUP stated in a December 2024 release that closure and remediation costs are covered by the company "no matter what." The regulator's own account is that the instruments on file cover early site works and that closure assurance has not yet been submitted for review.

And the question I raised yesterday about the Board's prior private-capital condition remains open.

I regret the error and I am correcting it in print today. I am not asking the Board to vote any particular way. I would only note that the Board is being asked to commit $50 million to a project whose mining permit cannot take effect until financial assurance is established, and that the regulator says that submission has not yet been made.

I have the full GRMD response and its attachments and will provide them to any member or to staff on request.

Respectfully,

Donald F. Dey
Bessemer Township, Michigan
Editor, Lake Superior Register
editor@lakesuperiorregister.com

From:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Cc:	editor@lakesuperiorregister.com
Subject:	Supplemental written comment — Agenda Item VI.a, Copperwood Mine Project, August 25, 2026
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 9:11:23 AM
Attachments:	Copperwood_CreditorPriority_LakeSuperiorRegister.pdf

To the members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

This supplements my written comment submitted August 22 regarding Agenda Item VI.a — the resolution to approve a Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant of $44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc. and $5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission.

I am a resident of Bessemer Township, Gogebic County, and the editor of the Lake Superior Register. As before, I am not asking the Board to vote any particular way. I am submitting documented findings so that they are in the record, and asking questions the Board is better positioned to answer than I am.

The three items below concern the project's financial structure rather than its environmental impact. Each is drawn from Highland Copper's own audited and interim financial statements. Full citations are in the accompanying article, published at lakesuperiorregister.com.

1. The State's creditor position.

Highland Copper's annual financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 disclose, in the notes concerning the Osisko royalty arrangement, a mortgage on the Copperwood property and a general security agreement over company assets that includes a pledge of the shares of Copperwood Resources Inc. — the Michigan subsidiary that holds Mining Permit MP 01 2012 and owes the reclamation obligation under it.

I do not offer a legal conclusion about how a state reclamation claim would rank against a perfected security interest in a distressed scenario. That question belongs to counsel with the instruments in hand. I would note only that a secured creditor holding a mortgage and a share pledge is, by design, positioned ahead of general claimants, and that any reclamation cost above the posted assurance would be a claim that has to compete.

Has the Board reviewed the State of Michigan's creditor position with respect to reclamation costs before committing $50 million in public infrastructure capital?

2. The financial assurance declines.

Highland's interim financial statements for the periods ended December 31, 2025 report $240,188 returned from the financial assurance cash deposit in respect of completed site work. This is how such instruments are designed to operate and is not improper. It does mean that the $6,479,089 currently held is not a floor beneath the State's exposure. It is a balance, and it declines.

For context, three figures describe the same obligation: Special Condition N.1 of the permit prices reclamation at $37,960,000 as of 2012; the State holds $6,479,089, declining; and Highland's own balance sheet carries an asset retirement obligation with undiscounted cash flows of $1,722,673, with payments modeled in years 16, 17 and 35 from the start of construction.

3. The Board's prior condition.

The Michigan Strategic Fund's earlier approval for this project was conditioned on Highland Copper raising private capital. Has that condition been satisfied, modified, or waived? If it has not been satisfied, on what basis does the current resolution proceed?

I would add that the Export-Import Bank Letter of Interest announced in September 2025, for up to US$250 million, was expressly non-binding, and that development capital expenditure for the project has been put at approximately $425 million.

A related question remains outstanding with EGLE: General Permit Condition F.6 requires an updated reclamation cost estimate on or before March 15 of every third year following issuance. I have been unable to locate any such update in the public file, and I have an inquiry pending.

I would welcome correction from the Board, from MEDC staff, from EGLE, or from Highland Copper, and I will publish any response I receive in full.

Respectfully,

Donald F. Dey
Bessemer Township, Michigan
Editor, Lake Superior Register
lakesuperiorregister.com

Accompanying article: "Copperwood Mine: If the Cleanup Money Runs Out, Michigan Gets in Line Behind a Toronto Royalty Company," with full source citations, published at lakesuperiorregister.com.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGISTER
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ON THE WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA • GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Copperwood Mine: If the Cleanup Money Runs Out, Michigan Gets in Line Behind a Toronto Royalty Company

Osisko holds a mortgage on the property and a pledge of the shares of the company that owes the cleanup. Meanwhile the bond isn't a floor — it has already gone down once.

FOURTH IN A SERIES ON THE MONEY BEHIND THE COPPERWOOD MINE

Everything here comes from Highland Copper's own filings and from the State of Michigan's own records. Sources are at the end. Previous pieces at lakesuperiorregister.com.

The short version

On Tuesday, August 25, the Michigan Strategic Fund Board votes on a resolution to send **$44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc.** and **$5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission** — fifty million dollars of public money for site readiness at a mine that has not yet begun construction. (1)

I have written previously about the gap between what Michigan's mining permit says reclamation will cost and what the state actually holds against it. (2) This piece is about three things I have not written about, all from Highland Copper's own audited statements.

First: if this project fails, Michigan does not stand first in line. A Toronto royalty company holds a mortgage on the Copperwood property and a security interest that includes a pledge of the shares of Copperwood Resources Inc. itself — the Michigan subsidiary that owes the reclamation obligation.

Second: the financial assurance is not a floor. It has already been reduced once. Highland reported $240,188 returned to the company during the six months ended December 31, 2025.

Third: the last time the Michigan Strategic Fund approved money for this project, it attached a condition concerning Highland's ability to raise private capital. Whether it has been met is a question the Board is in a better position to answer than I am.

What the state actually holds

Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit No. MP 01 2012 was issued on April 30, 2012, originally to Orvana Resources US Corp; the permit holder was renamed Copperwood Resources Inc. in 2017. (3) Special Condition N.1 sets the reclamation figure:

> *"The total financial assurance estimated for the Copperwood Mine for reclamation costs at the closure stage of production is determined to be $37,960,000 as of the date this permit was issued." (4)*

Against that, the state holds a surety bond of **$6,479,089**, secured in July 2023. (5) Behind the bond sits a cash deposit of **$2,267,680 —** roughly thirty-five percent collateral. (5) EGLE's own file records the instruments arriving July 27, 2023 and being accepted August 2, 2023. (6)

Who is ahead of Michigan in line

Highland Copper Company Inc. is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, and trades on the TSX Venture Exchange under HI and on the OTCQB under HDRSF. (7) The corporate chain runs from Highland in Canada, through Upper Peninsula Holding Company Inc., a Delaware entity, to Copperwood Resources Inc., the Michigan company that holds the permit and owes the reclamation obligation. (8)

Osisko Gold Royalties is both a shareholder in Highland, at roughly six percent, and a secured party. Highland's annual financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 disclose, in the notes concerning the Osisko royalty arrangement, **a mortgage on the Copperwood property** and **a general security agreement over company assets that includes a pledge of the shares of Copperwood Resources Inc.** (9)

Read that twice. The security package does not merely encumber the ore body. It reaches the equity of the subsidiary that carries the permit.

I want to be careful about what this does and does not establish. Michigan's reclamation claim is not simply an ordinary unsecured debt; states have statutory tools, and how a mining reclamation obligation would rank against a perfected security interest in a distressed scenario is a question for lawyers with the actual documents in front of them.

But here is what can be said plainly. **A secured creditor holding a mortgage and a share pledge is, by design, positioned ahead of general claimants in a default.** The bond covers $6.48 million. Everything above that number — and the permit itself puts the number at nearly $38 million in 2012 dollars — is a claim that has to compete. Michigan would be competing.

That is a question the Board should have answered before it votes, not after.

The number that goes down

Highland's interim financial statements for the periods ended December 31, 2025 report **$240,188 returned from the financial assurance cash deposit** in respect of completed site work. (10)

That is how these instruments are designed to function — assurance is released as obligations are discharged. It is not improper. But it means the $6,479,089 is not a floor beneath the state's exposure. It is a balance, and the balance declines.

There is a third number worth setting alongside it. On its own balance sheet, Highland carries an asset retirement obligation with undiscounted cash flows of **$1,722,673**, with payments modeled in years 16, 17 and 35 from the start of construction. (11)

$37,960,000

WHAT THE PERMIT SAYS CLOSURE COSTS

$6,479,089

WHAT THE STATE HOLDS — AND IT DECLINES

$1,722,673

THE COMPANY'S OWN BALANCE-SHEET PROVISION

Three numbers, three orders of magnitude apart, describing the same hole in the ground.

The Board's own condition

This is not the first time the Michigan Strategic Fund has considered money for Copperwood. An earlier approval attached a condition relating to Highland's ability to raise private capital — on the order of $150 million — before state support would flow. Subsequent attempts to route funding to the project stalled in Senate Appropriations and were later removed from the state budget in October 2025. (12)

Meanwhile the capital picture has not resolved. Highland announced a **non-binding** Letter of Interest from the Export-Import Bank of the United States for up to US$250 million in September 2025. (13) Non-binding is the operative word; a letter of interest is not a commitment of funds. Development capital expenditure has been put at roughly $425 million, with a construction decision targeted for the second half of 2026. (14)

I do not know whether the prior condition has been satisfied, modified, or waived. The Board does.

Questions this raises

These are open to the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, to MEDC staff, to Highland Copper, and to EGLE:

Has the Board reviewed the State of Michigan's creditor position with respect to reclamation costs, given the security interests disclosed in Highland Copper's audited statements?

Was the private-capital condition attached to the earlier approval satisfied, modified, or waived? If it was not satisfied, on what basis does the current resolution proceed?

What is the state's current reclamation cost estimate for Copperwood in today's dollars? General Permit Condition F.6 requires an updated estimate on or before March 15 of every third year following issuance. (4) I have been unable to locate any such update in the public file, and I have an inquiry outstanding with EGLE.

I will publish any answer I receive, in full, including any that shows I have gotten something wrong.

I have submitted these findings to the Michigan Strategic Fund Board as written public comment ahead of Tuesday's vote. I have not asked the Board to vote any particular way. I have asked it to answer the questions above. How this publication is researched and written, including my use of AI as a research and drafting tool, is on the About page.

SOURCES

1. Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meeting Agenda, August 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Item VI.a. michiganbusiness.org.
2. Lake Superior Register, "Copperwood Mine: The $31 Million Hole in the Cleanup Fund."
3. Mining Permit No. MP 01 2012, issued April 30, 2012 by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to Orvana Resources US Corp; permit holder renamed Copperwood Resources Inc., 2017 (EGLE MiEnviro site file).
4. Permit No. MP 01 2012, Special Permit Conditions § N.1; General Permit Conditions § F.6.
5. Highland Copper Company Inc., Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024: surety bond secured July 2023, valued $6,479,089; cash deposit $2,267,680.
6. EGLE MiEnviro, Copperwood site file: Financial Assurance Documents — shipment tracking correspondence, July 26 – August 2, 2023; arrival July 27, acceptance August 2, 2023.
7. Highland Copper Company Inc. trades on the TSX Venture Exchange (HI) and OTCQB (HDRSF), headquartered in Vancouver, B.C. Filings at highlandcopper.com and on SEDAR+.
8. Highland Copper Company Inc., corporate structure disclosures: Highland Copper Company Inc. (Canada) → Upper Peninsula Holding Company Inc. (Delaware) → Copperwood Resources Inc. (Michigan).
9. Highland Copper Company Inc., annual financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025, notes concerning the Osisko royalty: mortgage on the Copperwood property and general security agreement over company assets, including a pledge of the shares of Copperwood Resources Inc.
10. Highland Copper Company Inc., interim financial statements for the periods ended December 31, 2025: $240,188 returned from the financial assurance cash deposit in respect of completed site work.
11. Highland Copper Company Inc., annual financial statements (June 30, 2025): asset retirement obligation, undiscounted cash flows of $1,722,673, payments modeled in years 16, 17 and 35 from the start of construction.
12. Michigan Strategic Fund prior approval and conditions; subsequent legislative history, including removal of Copperwood infrastructure funding from the state budget, October 2025.
13. Highland Copper Company Inc. press release, September 2025: non-binding Letter of Interest from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, up to US$250 million.

14. Highland Copper Company Inc., 2026 work plan release (January 27, 2026) and investor materials: development capital expenditure of approximately $425 million; construction decision targeted for the second half of 2026.

From:	Laura DeGuire
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Proposed copper mining operation near Porcupine Mountain State Park
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 12:12:17 PM

The proposal for your consideration regarding copper mining next to the porcupine Mountains State Park has been declined several times in the past and I encourage you to disapprove it once again. It makes no sense to allow a foreign company with no track record to mine and discharge tailings in a pristine area. The risk to Michigan's environment is simply not worth it.

Thank you for your consideration to deny.

Laura J DeGuire
East Lansing, MI

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mark Herman
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: Deny Funding for the "Copperwood Mine"
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 12:56:41 PM

Hello,

My name is Mark Herman, I am a Michigan native and I am a homeowner in Lansing.
I am writing to you today to demand that your board denies any public or private funding to Highland Copper's "Copperwood Mine" project.

Here are my reasons:

1. Highland Copper has failed to meet any of the conditions imposed by the MSF on the original grant, failed to secure debt financing, and has failed to provide the $37,960,000 of financial assurance for their mining permit to take effect. That mining permit also states that it can be revoked if no mining or construction occurs within 2 years. It's now been 14 years.

2. 98.55% of extracted material would be toxic waste, containing mercury, arsenic, cadmium, and lead to be stored in unprecedented proximity to Lake Superior in a waste basin requiring perpetual maintenance.
A dam rupture model by the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission shows that a breach could inundate the State Park and the Lake with a surge of waste 10+ meters in depth.

3. In June the company stated that it is considering mining a lower ore grade cut-off, meaning that the amount of waste could actually increase from current estimates.
This pivot also shows that the company is scrambling to make their failing project more profitable.

4. The company's latest financial report warns of significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.
Last year they were forced to sell off all remaining shares in the White Pine North project in order to pay off debts. After over a decade, they have only $20 million cash-on-hand for a $450 million project. Why should Michigan bail out a hated project that the free market has chosen not to endorse?

Your board exists to better Michigan economically, not give millions of Michigan tax dollars to unprofessional and inexperienced foreign companies.

Thank you,
Mark Herman

From:	Mary Wagar
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Mining near Porkie Pine Mountains
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 3:12:20 PM

I do not want US tax dollars funding a foreign government building their first ever mine next to Porcupine Mountains in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Please note my position on this matter. Leave our pristine land alone.
Thank you,

Mary W
Wolverine, MI

From:	Roger Woods
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Public Comment Related to Item VI on August 25, 2026 Agenda
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 8:51:51 AM
Attachments:	image.png

Dear Members of the MSF Board,

I am writing to ask you to please vote NO on the resolution to approve a resolution to approve a Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant in the amount of $44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc. and $5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission (item VI on your agenda for Tuesday, August 25, 2026).

- Highland Copper is a Canadian company that lacks experience in mining. Please don't support exchanging permanent environmental damage for temporary jobs that enrich a foreign corporation at Michiganders' expense.
- Over 40 million tons of toxic mine waste, containing arsenic, mercury, cadmium and lead, would be stored in unprecedented proximity to Lake Superior, this continent's largest, cleanest source of surface freshwater. The risk this project poses to contaminating the lake is too great. Do we want another scar on our landscape like the White Pine tailings?


-
- The proximity of the proposed mining operation to both Porcupine Mountains State Park and Black River Harbor Recreation Area is especially troubling. Once mining alters our state parks, the resulting habitat loss and pollution are permanent. Please vote to safeguard our recreation areas for future generations before they are lost forever.
- While we may only 3% of the state's population, decisions made at the state level will have a lasting impact on generations of Michiganders, not just the UP.

Thank you for your service on the MSF board, and for reading this message.

--
Roger Woods
Calumet, Michigan

From:	Ryan Nagy
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	WATERSHED KEEPS THE LEDGER THE ECONOMY FORGETS
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 1:08:33 PM

Hello,

I'm sending this in regard to the proposed Copperwood mining project and what I believe is a much larger question surrounding it.

The watershed keeps the ledger the economy forgets.

Water remembers what happens to the land. What we remove, disturb, drain, contaminate, or fail to return eventually shows up somewhere downstream. At a time when aquifers are declining across the world and the hydrological cycle is being placed under increasing pressure, I think we need to become much more careful about what we are willing to risk in the name of continued economic expansion.

Lake Superior is one of the greatest reserves of fresh water on Earth. The forests, wetlands, groundwater, rivers, and streams surrounding it are all part of the same living system. Once viewed that way, protecting the watershed is not simply an environmental issue. It is a question of what kind of inheritance we intend to leave behind.

I've included a Codex I authored exploring a renewed science and philosophy of water — its movement through forests, soils, aquifers and living systems, and what these relationships might teach us about designing civilization within the limits of the hydrological cycle rather than against them.

I hope you'll take some time to explore it and seriously consider the implications at hand. There are many things an economy can replace. A healthy watershed is not one of them.

nagydesignllc.com

From: Sarah Molenaar
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: No taxpayer funding for Copperwood Mine
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:29:34 PM

We know better and can do better.
No taxpayer funds should be used.
And no mine should be there.

Sarah Molenaar
Hersey, MI 49639

From:	S Z
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Comment re: Copperwood Mine Project 8/25/26 agenda
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2026 9:12:29 AM

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund board,
I am writing to the board in strong opposition to spending even one cent of taxpayer money to support Canadian-owned Copperwood Mine, in the face of incredible public opposition and grave risks to Lake Superior and the beloved Porcupine Mountains.

Highland Copper is an inexperienced foreign company. Their own most recent annual report cited "significant concern about the company's ability to continue." This company will profit off of Michigan's natural resources, pollute our land and water, and we will not see any profit, especially if the company folds or has to stop the project partway through, leaving our communities in a lurch -- lost jobs and unmitigated pollution without a responsible party to address the harms.

Highland Copper has already ignored permits resulting in $25,000 in fines and has written deceptive reports (e.g., to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Council). This is a terrible start to a project operating in a vulnerable environmental area.

THe U.S. Geological Survey states that copper mines already exceed the demand for copper -- the copper "shortage" prompting its designation as a critical mineral is due to a shortage of refineries, not a shortage of mines or copper.

Copperwood Mine poses great risk to the Porcupine Mountains and Lake Superior -- not only polluting water, but also air pollution, light pollution, and noise pollution to an area we should be preserving and protecting. Porcupine Mountains State Park is the most visited state park in the U.P. and holds the largest old growth forest between the Mississippi and the Adirondacks. Local communities rely on Lake Superior for clean drinking water, fishing, and recreation, not to mention our tourism economy that requires Lake Superior and the Porcupine Mountains to remain safe and clean.

I implore you to prevent this disaster to our economy, Lake Superior, Porcupine Mountains, and our communities. Please do not approve any taxpayer money going to support this liability of a project by an inexperienced foreign company.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sarah Zollweg
933 S Lincoln Dr
Hancock, MI 49930

From: Scott Baumgartner
To: MEDC MSF Comments
Subject: MSF: Deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:20:45 PM

Dear Boardmembers,

I am writing today to urge the board to deny funding to Copperwood Resources Inc. By most accounts this is an inexperienced foreign company, whose latest annual report warns of "significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern." This is an unproven company which has already been fined $25,000 for ignoring permits, and which the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community says has been deceptive in their reports to the Tribal Council.

The mine would impose air, light, noise, and water pollution into Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, the most visited State Park in the Upper Peninsula, the most beautiful State Park in the country, the largest old growth forest between the Mississippi River and the Adirondacks, and a place that proud Michiganders fought to see protected specifically from encroaching industry.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, existing copper mines are already exceeding demand, so there's no need to accelerate a new one at an abominable location. As a former resident who plans to return the state, I am deeply concerned about the fiscal and environmental consequences that are likely to arise in the vicinity of this pristine state park.

As stated above, there is too much at stake. Please deny the Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant to Copperwood Resources Inc.

Sincerely,
Scott Baumgartner
North Hollywood, CA 91602

From:	Teresa Woods
To:	MEDC MSF Comments
Subject:	Public Comment Related to Item VI on August 25, 2026 Agenda
Date:	Sunday, August 23, 2026 1:08:01 PM

Dear Members of the MSF Board,

I am writing to ask you to please vote NO on the resolution to approve a resolution to approve a Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant in the amount of $44,971,691 to Copperwood Resources Inc. and $5,028,309 to the Gogebic County Road Commission (item VI on your agenda for Tuesday, August 25, 2026).

- Highland Copper is a Canadian company that lacks experience in mining. Please don't support exchanging permanent environmental damage for temporary jobs that enrich a foreign corporation at Michiganders' expense.
- Over 40 million tons of toxic mine waste, containing arsenic, mercury, cadmium and lead, would be stored in unprecedented proximity to Lake Superior, this continent's largest, cleanest source of surface freshwater. The risk this project poses to contaminating the lake is too great.
- The proximity of the proposed mining operation to both Porcupine Mountains State Park and Black River Harbor Recreation Area is especially troubling. Once mining alters our state parks, the resulting habitat loss and pollution are permanent. Please vote to safeguard our recreation areas for future generations before they are lost forever.

Thank you for your service on the MSF board, and for reading this message.

Sincerely,
Teresa Woods
Calumet, Michigan