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November 22, 2023

InvestUP
Attn: Marty Fittante, Chief Executive Officer
101 West Washington Street, Suite 13
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Highland Copper Company – Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

Please accept this letter of support for the Copperwood Project in Gogebic County. Northern Michigan University is a rural-serving comprehensive institution based in Marquette in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with approximately 7,000 students and over 170 degree programs. Northern values the important responsibility of partnership in support of our region's prosperity. Through collaboration with industry and economic development partners like InvestUP, we are preparing students for success in high-wage, in-demand careers that are also enabling new economic development throughout the region. Consistent with its commitment to access and lifelong learning, Northern also takes great pride in supporting non-degree programs that support skill development and workforce training in partnership with Upper Peninsula employers.

We are encouraged by new opportunities presented for sustainable mineral production in the western Upper Peninsula. This region has faced severe challenges over the past three decades with the closure of the White Pine Mine, the former Smurfit Stone paper mill in Ontonagon, and former state Ojibwa Correctional Facility in Marenisco, resulting in record unemployment, population decline, and shrinking K-12 enrollment.

The Copperwood Project is projected to support 380 full-time operational jobs and 273 indirect jobs annually through 2037, in addition to 300 construction jobs for the project development. The projected \$77.3 million in annual labor income and \$13.7 million in state and local taxes from this project will have a profound impact in this community and throughout our region, while also supporting responsible production of minerals that are necessary to fuel our growing mobility economy in Michigan.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this monumental investment in the Upper Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Brock Tessman, Ph.D.
President