

July 19, 2024

InvestUP

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

RE: Copperwood Mine Project

Dear Mr. Fittante,

As you may recall, I wrote a letter to you on November 22, 2023 indicating my support for the Copperwood Mine Project in Gogebic County. I signed that letter in my role as president of Northern Michigan University (NMU).

Since that time, my own understanding of the mine project has grown, as has NMU's commitment to comprehensive sustainability and Indigenous communities through our signing of the Okanagan Charter. With that in mind, this letter serves as notification that, with information about the project currently available as well as our own core values, Northern Michigan University does not support the Copperwood Mine Project.

Given the mine's projected active life of 11 years and the likelihood that a number of jobs associated with the project would be filled by individuals from outside the region, we have concerns about the long-term economic benefits of the Copperwood Mine. It may well be the case that the temporary economic boom produced by the mine will be overshadowed by permanent ecological damage and a post-closure economic downturn. The threat to Indigenous rights and natural resources posed by the location of the mine and associated tailings is another point of major concern. The project sits on land of long-standing significance to Indigenous peoples and is subject to the 1842 Treaty of La Pointe between the United States and federally recognized tribes that are successors to Ojibwe bands that entered the Treaty. The scope of the mine project also overlaps with Michigan's cherished Porcupine Mountains State Park. Most importantly the site is proximate to - and sits on streams and other topography that flow directly into - Lake Superior, which serves as *the source* of vitality and sustainability for the people and natural environment of our region.

This does not mean that NMU dismisses the near-term economic benefits that the mine and associated infrastructure will bring to a region suffering from economic and demographic stagnation. Nor does it suggest that we believe Michigan's clean mobility sector can progress without important minerals like copper that would be generated through the Copperwood project.

Indeed, Northern Michigan University recognizes the complex trade-offs associated with the Copperwood Mine Project and understands the rationale behind the project. Our University would not exist without the hard work, economic growth, and raw materials made possible by

people and communities across our region, including the good people of Gogebic County. In fact, in our new strategic plan we will outline a “Partnership with Place” priority that calls on our campus to fund collaborative work with rural communities across the Upper Peninsula to develop plans for economic, health, and community development that will provide sustainable growth.

In summary, NMU’s decision to withdraw support for the Copperwood Mine Project does not mean that we will not support any mine, anywhere, at any time. It simply means that we do not see the Copperwood Mine as the right mine, in the right place, at this time.

Marty, thank you for your tireless work on behalf of InvestUP and the entire Upper Peninsula. Please continue to count on Northern Michigan University as a partner in your efforts and a champion of the long-term economic health of the region we all serve.

Warm regards,

Brock Tessman  
President