

Laurentian Chamber of Commerce - Legislative Committee Position Statement on Mining

Utilizing natural resources forms the basis for economic activity in our country, and especially in our region. A strong, sustainable domestic supply of necessary minerals is essential to a vibrant manufacturing sector which in turn positively affects all other industries including financial, legal, defense, and communications which are all integral in supporting our standard of living.

Therefore, the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee supports responsible mining in all forms in northeast Minnesota through the systematic application of science upon which decisions must be made to guide mining and create economic viability:

- Science and engineering is the foundation of our management practices of natural resource extraction, processing, and utilization.
- Science and engineering is applied at the beginning, and throughout the lifetime of a mine to improve processes and mitigate risk.
- Emotions and mistrust must be replaced with science and transparency. Stakeholders will then be able to thoroughly evaluate and analyze proposed projects and make reality-based, risk-mitigating cost/benefit decisions.

Informed decisions will positively affect economic prosperity and environmental quality, on the Iron Range and across Minnesota, and give us the opportunity to be a world leader in the development and application of the science and technology of mining. We also believe every effort should be made to assure responsible and safe mining through an environmental review process that has been shown to be fair and efficient to all stakeholders.