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Sierra Club—John Muir Chapter

NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Club Opposes Mining Bill Allowing Effigy Mound Desecration

Madison—The Sierra Club announced its opposition to AB 620, legislation allowing desecration and destruction of Ho-Chunk Nation effigy mounds in Blooming Grove solely to benefit limestone miners Wingra Stone and Redi-Mix. AB 620 outrageously allows the desecration of these mounds solely to determine whether human remains are present and could lead to the destruction of an irreplaceable historical, spiritual, and cultural site sacred to the Ho-Chunk Nation. AB 620 is the latest in a string of special interest bills introduced by legislators granting special favors to industry and developers outside of their districts and constituents.

“AB 620 is a shocking attack on the prohibition on disturbing effigy mounds that could lead to the destruction of this site - sacred to the Ho-Chunk Nation – to allow more limestone mining. The Sierra Club is appalled by this attempt to circumvent previous decisions denying permits to destroy the site” said Elizabeth Ward, John Muir Chapter Programs Coordinator. “AB 620 is the latest shameful example of this legislature’s giveaways and special treatment for developers, industry, and mining companies.”

The Sierra Club is urging members and the public to attend the Save The Mounds Rally at noon on Tuesday, January 12 on the west side of the state Capitol building in Madison. The rally will urge lawmakers to protect these historical and culturally significant places.

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Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club’s mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.