



SIERRA CLUB
JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2017

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Sierra Club Releases the Top 13 Falsehoods Used To Justify SB 395/AB 499

With the Mining Give-Away Bill being held on Friday the 13th, the Sierra Club has released a whitepaper on the [Top 13 Falsehoods Used to Justify the Mining Give-Away Bill](#) or SB395/AB499.

Mining is the most destructive industrial activity proposed for the state and generates toxic wastes that must be managed safely forever to avoid poisoning air and water resources. Sulfide mining almost always produces acid mine drainage which is toxic to fish and wildlife due to dissolved metals and contaminants such as mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, zinc, copper and many others that damage surface water and groundwater resources.

“The environmental and conservation community has rarely faced proposed legislation supported by so many falsehoods, misleading statements, and flawed logic as SB 395/AB 499”, said Dave Blouin, Mining Chair for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter.

“This is why Wisconsin protected itself twenty years ago by passing, with bi-partisan support, our ‘Prove it First’ law for metallic sulfide mining”, said Bill Davis, Sierra Club John Muir Chapter Director.

More than 50 statewide and regional environmental and conservation organizations and tribes support preservation of Prove It First, including Trout Unlimited, River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Nature Conservancy, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, the Menominee Nation, the Oneida Nation, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Natural Resources Defense Council.

“As amended, SB395 still remains poor public policy,” said Blouin, **“the bill was designed to benefit an industry with a failed track record and specifically appears to benefit a single company, Aquila Resources, which collaborated on the development of the bill.”**

The Sierra Club urges legislators to reject this special interest giveaway bill that is unlikely to create economic development while endangering our sustainable and thriving tourism and agriculture economies. **“As shown in our paper, the Mining Give-Away Bill is far from being a boon to our economy it will threaten our existing tourism and agricultural economy”** Davis said.

The [full whitepaper can be found here](#) and at sierraclub.org/Wisconsin

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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. 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.