



NEWS RELEASE



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Overwhelming Support for Mining Safeguards, DNR Independence and Science at Conservation Congress Hearings

Madison: Final results from the annual statewide Conservation Congress Spring Hearing held on April 12 demonstrate significant statewide support in favor of mining safeguards, DNR independence and science education requirements for DNR officials. Overwhelming majorities approved advisory questions for the Natural Resources Board for: Repeal of 2013 Act 1 – the law written by Gogebic Taconite for its now-abandoned iron mine proposal; a statewide moratorium on new frac sand mining permits until the state acts to strengthen state laws; appointment of the DNR Secretary by the Natural Resources Board; and for legislation requiring top DNR officials have advanced natural resource science education or experience.

"Wisconsin citizens have demonstrated again their serious concerns about the effects of iron and sand mining on our natural heritage. People who fish, hunt, camp and hike take time to attend these annual hearings and we urge our DNR and legislators to listen to us," said Patricia Hammel with Madison Action for Mining Alternatives.

"These results show overwhelming public support for safeguards that protect Wisconsin's air, water, and public health. Conservationists want their favorite land and waterways protected from the threats of frac-sand mining and the ill-fated iron mine proposal--a clear rebuke to Governor Walker and the Wisconsin state legislatures irresponsible votes to ram through mining in Wisconsin," said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Sierra Club—John Muir Chapter.

[The DNR tabulation of results are found here.](#)

Question 13, for appointment of the DNR Secretary by the NR Board instead of the Governor was approved by 89% of voters (3436 of 3854) and approved by all 72 counties.

Question 20, Repeal of 2013 Act 1, the enabling legislation written by Gogebic Taconite removing many of the state's mining protections, was approved by 67% of voters (2350 of 3490) and by 86% of counties (62 of 72).

Question 21, for a moratorium on new frac sand mining and processing permits was approved by 77% of voters (2802 of 3628) and by 97% of counties (70 of 72).

Question 30, to require top officials at the DNR to have advanced natural resource education or experience was approved by 87% of voters (3287 of 3793) and by all 72 counties.

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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.

Madison Action for Mining Alternatives is a grassroots group of citizens that provides support and solidarity to communities fighting to save water, air, ecosystems, and sustainable economies from proposed or existing mining projects in Wisconsin.