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# NEWS RELEASE

**John Muir Chapter**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Sierra Club Urges Town of Union to Vote No on Sand Mine due to Potential Impacts on water and State Natural Area**

**Madison:** The Sierra Club today announced serious concerns about A.F. Gelhar's proposed silica sand mine for the Town of Union, and urges the town board against approving this project until its impacts on an adjacent state natural area and local water resources are known. The proposed development will operate for up to 100 years and occupy at least 160 acres of land. It will require an onsite processing plant and a high capacity well.

"Local communities should not be asked to approve private developments until impacts on land and water resources are thoroughly studied," said Dave Blouin, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's mining chair. "Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area is one of eleven in Waupaca County that needs to be protected in order to preserve native plant and animal communities and provide quality opportunities for recreation and tourism," said Kelly Ramstack, Sierra Club – Fox Valley Group member.

The Sierra Club is concerned about this project's potential to threaten local habitat with its location directly adjacent to Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area. We are also concerned about the potential for water degradation resulting from allowing waste water to flow directly into a tributary of the Little Wolf River. The installation of a high capacity well could also threaten water quantity in an area where resources are limited and facing substantial pressure from other types of development. Area residents are also concerned about this project's potential to create harmful levels of silica dust in the air, increased traffic and industrial noise, and lower property values. The Sierra Club therefore urges the Town of Union to avoid approving any permits for this project until concerns about the environment and local control are addressed and until adequate time is given for thorough stakeholder input.

*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.*

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