

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

RESOLUTION NO: 5/21/19F

PERTAINING TO: Opposition to Aquila Resources' Back Forty Mine Project

WHEREAS: The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe (Tribe), organized under a constitution adopted April 18, 1936, and approved June 1, 1936, pursuant to Sec. 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act, said Constitution having been amended by the Band on January 28, 1991, and said amendments approved by the Secretary on July 2, 1991, in accordance with the provisions of applicable federal law; and,

WHEREAS: The Tribal Council is the governing body of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and,

WHEREAS: Aquila Resources' proposed Back Forty Mine Project would consist of a sulfide mine along the shores of the Manoominikaani-ziibi, **Menominee River**, the largest river system in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a major Lake Michigan tributary that flows into Green Bay; and,

WHEREAS: The mouth of the Manoominikaani-ziibi is recognized as the place of origin of the Menominee People, and the Manoominikaani-ziibi including the area of the proposed Back Forty Mine is historically and culturally significant to the Menominee people due to the existence of cultural properties by way of former villages, burial sites, mound groups, funerary objects, raised agricultural fields and garden beds; and,

WHEREAS: The Manoominikaani-ziibi provides a unique habitat for relatives of cultural significance such as the name, which would be negatively impacted by discharges into the water; and,

WHEREAS: The approval of this mine will result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Tribe; and,

WHEREAS: Aquila Resources, Inc. propose to utilize mining extraction and removal processes which have historically cause detrimental impacts to our relatives such as the nibi, mashkiki, name, and other wildlife; and,

WHEREAS: The approval of this mine will result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Tribal Council opposes Aquila Resources' proposed Back Forty Mine Project. This proposed sulfide mine on the shores of the Manoominikaani-ziibi threatens the history and culture of our Menominee relatives and all other relatives that rely on the nibi. There has not been a sulfide mine to date that has not harmed the environment.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Treaty Natural Resources Division and Tribal Historic Preservation Office is directed to do everything they can within the capacities of their programs to support our Menominee relatives, protect the nibi and stop the Back 40 Mine.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Red Cliff Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the council is composed of nine members (9), of whom 6 were present at a meeting duly called, convened and held this 21 day of May, 2019, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 5 members for, 0 against, and 0 members abstaining for the vote, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in anyway.



Laura Gordon, Secretary
Red Cliff Tribal Council

