



The Sinsinawa Dominicans

585 County Road Z • Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701
Phone (608) 748-4411 • Fax (608) 748-5501
www.sinsinawa.org

DOMINICANS OF SINSINAWA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO AQUILA RESOURCES' "BACK FORTY MINE PROJECT"

WHEREAS, Aquila Resources, Inc., a Canadian based company, is seeking approvals from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to mine gold, zinc, copper, silver and other minerals in Lake Township, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the mining project known as the "Back Forty Mine Project" would consist of an open pit mine within 150 feet of the Menominee River, the largest river system in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a major Lake Michigan tributary that forms the Wisconsin-Michigan border and flows into Green Bay; and

WHEREAS, Aquila Resources, Inc. proposes to utilize open-pit mining extraction and removal processes which have historically caused detrimental impacts to water, environment, wildlife, and animals; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and its tributaries including the Menominee River are relied upon for clean water, religious practices, fishing, economic development, agriculture, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the mouth of the Menominee River is recognized as the place of origin of the Menominee People, and the Menominee River 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, adverse impacts of the Back Forty Mine would not be geographically limited to the State of Michigan, but would be felt by Wisconsin residents, Tribal Nations, and other Great Lakes users; and

WHEREAS, Father Samuel Mazzuchelli OP, founder of the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation, lived among or was acquainted with Tribal Nations of the Great Lakes, 1830-33: Chippewa in Mackinac; Ottawa in L'Arbre Croche; Menominee in Green Bay; Ho-Chunk in Wisconsin Dells; and

WHEREAS, Father Samuel publicly protested unjust treatment of Tribal Nations in his day; and

WHEREAS, Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters have served among the Menominee and other Tribal Nations over the congregation's 170 year history; and

WHEREAS, the threats associated with the proposed Back Forty Mine far outweigh the short term benefits associated with the proposed Back Forty Mine and justify denial of the permits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by this Resolution, the Leadership Council of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa hereby declares strong opposition to the Back Forty Mine; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Prioress and Secretary of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa are hereby authorized to sign this resolution for and on behalf of the Leadership Council of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution and action was approved by the Leadership Council of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa at a meeting on March 8, 2018, and was approved by a unanimous vote. This resolution has not been amended or rescinded in any way.



Sister Toni Harris OP, Prioress



Sister Mary Ann Tranel OP, Secretary