

**SR-28, As Adopted by Senate, March 26, 2015**

**Substitute for Senate Resolution No. 28.**

A resolution to express support for the renewed growth of mining in Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan is blessed with an abundance of valuable mineral resources. Our state's long and diverse geologic history has produced a wide variety of minerals, notably copper, iron, nickel, salt, sand, gravel, and limestone; and

Whereas, Mining played an integral part of Michigan's history and growth. More native copper ore was mined in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula from 1845 to 1887 than any other place in North America, and for many years, Michigan produced more than one-half of the nation's supply of copper. In 1844, rich iron ore deposits were discovered in the Upper Peninsula, and from the 1850s to the early 1900s, Michigan was the nation's leader in iron ore production. From 1880 to 1926, Michigan also ranked first or second in the nation in salt production. Michigan's mining industry was a major driver of Michigan's early economy and growth and attracted immigrants from around the world. So important were the mineral riches of the Upper Peninsula that, in 1855, a remarkable engineering feat was completed, the construction of a canal and locks along the St. Mary's River to enable the transport of these minerals around the world; and

Whereas, Mining continues to be an important piece of Michigan's economy and economic future, with mineral resources in the Upper Peninsula attracting new interest from a number of national and international companies. These companies are investing in Michigan and creating well-paying jobs, often in areas that are in dire need of economic opportunity. For example, the Eagle Mine has created over 300 new jobs that support another 1,250 jobs in the community; has invested more than \$50 million in public infrastructure; generates new local and state tax revenue; and is providing a 20 percent boost to the local economy. It is a clear example of how the resurgence of mining can play a vital role in our state's economic recovery, not only in the Upper Peninsula but in Michigan as a whole; and

Whereas, Mining is a growing industry for our entire state. Limestone mines are found throughout Northeast Michigan including sites in Alpena and Presque Isle counties. Lafarge Presque Isle Quarry and Alpena Cement Plant and Quarry have approximately 500 employees in Michigan today, while the Calcite Plant in Presque Isle County lays claim to the world's largest limestone quarry. Mining capabilities in Northern Michigan have paved the path for Alpena to house Lafarge's largest cement plant in the nation; and

Whereas, Modern-day mining can boost our state and local economies while providing for a balanced use of natural resources. In the last decade, the Legislature created new laws for nonferrous metallic mineral mining that bolstered our state's already strong environmental standards and regulations, arguably making them the most stringent standards in the world. These standards ensure that today's mining is carried out safely and responsibly while being mindful of the environment and still permitting local communities, families, and institutions to prosper and grow for future generations of Michiganders; and

Whereas, Even in the information age, abundant natural resources and their wise use can be the cornerstone of a successful state. Four of the top ten best-run states—North Dakota, Wyoming, Texas, and Alaska—identified by the financial news publication 24/7 Wall St. have robust mining industries that provide jobs, investments, and tax revenue that fuel these states' economies and their high ratings. The expansion of mining in Michigan can provide similar benefits, helping build a strong, diverse, and resilient economy across all regions of our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we express support for the renewed growth of mining in Michigan.