

Senator Casperson offered the following resolution:

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. 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 the state'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 canal and locks along the St. Mary's River were constructed 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. The Eagle Mine has created over 300 new jobs that support another 1,250 jobs in the community; 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 Michigan's economic recovery not only in the Upper Peninsula, but in the state as a whole; 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, without adversely impacting the environment and 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 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.