



Resolution in Opposition to Metallic Sulfide Mining in Marathon County, Wisconsin, known as “Reef Deposit.”

WHEREAS, the mission of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (WITU) is to conserve, protect, and restore the aquifers, cold waters, and water resources of Wisconsin; to support the national organization and twenty-one local chapters in their pursuit of that mission.

WHEREAS, there are known potential gold deposits in Easton Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin, and GreenLight Wisconsin, LLC, a Wisconsin mining company, has been granted a license by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to drill exploratory borings at the Easton location with the intent of locating an open pit metallic sulfide mine at that location.

WHEREAS, the proposed mine site location is in Township 29N, Range 9E, and includes portions of Section 26, 35 and 36, Easton Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin. The site is named by GreenLight, LLC as “Reef Deposit.” The proposed mine is located less than two miles from the Eau Claire River and less than one mile from the Ice Age Trail Thornapple Segment, both significant recreation economic resources in Marathon County.

WHEREAS, The Eau Claire River is a river within the Central Wisconsin River Basin. The Central Wisconsin River Basin has one of the largest and most diverse arrays of surface water systems in the state. The Central Wisconsin River Basin contains over 2,873 miles of streams. The river basin watershed provides significant habitat, recreation, navigation and is a significant drinking water resource for the population of North Central Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, gold and gold bearing minerals and ores are not critical, strategic, or “green” minerals (metals necessary for renewable energy such as lithium) as defined by U.S. Geological Survey.

WHEREAS, mining of metallic sulfide ores and minerals has a consistent proven record of surface and ground water contamination and pollution. This potential source of pollution threatens the groundwater of Marathon County and the surface waters of the Central Wisconsin River Basin watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited opposes metallic sulfide mining in Marathon County and urges Wisconsin DNR to deny a mining permit to GreenLight Wisconsin, LLC, unless GreenLight LLC can prove through existing mining demonstration there is no threat to ground and surface waters through eternity.

Dated this 29th day of June 2023

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Inc.

By: Scott Allen, Chair

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited (“WITU”) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which consists of approximately 6,500 volunteer members in 21 chapters in Wisconsin working to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean, fishable water. In a typical year, WITU and its Chapters report over 50,000 volunteer hours, working on conservation projects, youth education events, and service programs for veterans and first responders in our communities.