

Citizen Resolution # 451222

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Reinstate Prove it First Mining Law (1997 Act 171).

Issue: Act 171 was passed in 1997-98, with overwhelming bipartisan support (29-3 in the Senate and 91-6 in the Assembly and was signed by Gov. Thompson), "Prove It First" was a reaction to high-profile cases of pollution from sulfide mines. When sulfide rock comes into contact with water, the reaction produces sulfuric acid runoff—a dangerous and long-lasting pollutant that devastates rivers, lakes, and streams. This landmark legislation requires mining corporations to provide an example of a metallic sulfide mine in the U.S. that hasn't polluted local watersheds in order to establish operations in the state. One peer reviewed study in 2006 found that 76% of mining projects that claimed they would not pollute still did so. More importantly, 100% of sulfide mines have failed to properly contain sulfide pollution. In 2017, Act 171 was repealed and replaced with 2017 Act 134 which was passed mainly on a party line vote. Because metallic mining continues to pollute where it is done; it is necessary to reinstate the Prove it First Act 171 from 1997.

Do you support increasing protection of Wisconsin's environment by recommending the Wisconsin Legislature reinstate the Prove It first Mining Law 1997 Act 171?

Additional Information provided by author:

The peer review study from 2006 can be found here: <https://earthworks.org/files/publications/ComparisonsReportFinal.pdf>

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.