



September 17, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Chair, Michigan Strategic Fund
Via email:
messerq@michigan.org

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Via email:
<https://somgovweb.state.mi.us/ContactGovernor>

Re: Reconsider Copperwood Mine Funding

Dear Governor Whitmer and Chair Messer:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, we ask that you direct the Michigan Strategic Fund Board to **reconsider** the recent decision to allocate \$50 million in taxpayer funds to support site preparation efforts for the Copperwood mine project in the western Upper Peninsula.

We are concerned that the Copperwood Mine would threaten the pristine Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area, the Presque Isle River, and Lake Superior, treasured by Michiganders for protecting wildlife, old growth forests, and abundant natural and freshwater resources.

We are also concerned that the funds approved for the Copperwood Mine were previously allocated to another economic development project, thus avoiding the need for legislative approval, which has failed numerous times due to concerns raised by Michigan constituents.

The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area, the Presque Isle River and Lake Superior are irreplaceable public resources that demand the highest level of protection. The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports protection of these valuable natural resources and urges Governor Whitmer and Chair Messer to require reconsideration of the funding approval.

Sincerely,
Denise Hartsough, Copresident LWVMI

Lynne Kochmanski, Copresident LWVMI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Hartsough".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Kochmanski".

600 W. St. Joseph Street, Suite 3G, Lansing, MI 48933
517-484-5383, www.lwvmi.org