

Action Alert on Sulfide Mining!

We are dismayed to report that the MI DEQ has granted preliminary approval of the Kennecott Eagle Mine Project. It is CRITICAL that citizens throughout the state express their concerns! We urge you to attend one of the public hearings, and/or submit your thoughts in writing. For more information on the issue and/or for details on how to submit testimony or write a letter to the DEQ, visit www.MichiganLCVEdFund.org/issues/sulfidemining.htm.

UP Public Hearings:

September 10th, 1-4:30PM & 6-9:30PM
 NMU Great Lakes Rooms in the University Center at
 NMU, Marquette, MI

September 11th & 12th, 1-4:30PM & 6-9:30PM
 West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A,
 Forsyth Twp., MI
 (located on the old K.I. Sawyer AFB,
 approximately 3.5 miles from County Road 553, just
 behind the MDEQ UP District office)

September 13th, 1-4:30PM
 West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A,
 Forsyth Twp., MI (same as above)

Lansing Public Hearing:

September 19th, 1-4:30PM and 6-9:30PM
 Lansing Center, Rooms 203 and 204,
 333 E. Michigan Ave.,
 Lansing, MI

**Written comments are accepted now through
 5PM on October 17, 2007. Please send them to:**

DEQ/DNR Kennecott Comments
 Office of Geological Survey
 P.O. Box 30256,
 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756

or submit them via e-mail to:
 DEQ-Kennecott-comments@michigan.gov

Michigan League Update Summer 2007

Michigan League of Conservation Voters • 213 W. Liberty, Ste. 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • Phone: 734.222.9650 • Fax: 734.222.9651



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Michigan LCV Works with State House on Renewable Energy The Push Continues for Key Legislation

Michigan LCV is working aggressively in Lansing, in partnership with a coalition of community, business, and religious leaders around the state, to ensure that Michigan becomes a world-leader in renewable energy, providing our citizens with a cleaner, smarter New Energy Future.

We need laws that will address both renewable energy and energy efficiency issues. Addressing the first of these concerns may be accomplished through the creation of a Renewable Energy Standard, or RES, that will dictate not only what constitutes "renewable" energy, but also what percentage of our state's power would come from such sources. (Think clean wind, solar, and renewable biomass—not dirty trash incineration or fossil fuels.) The second need, energy efficiency mandates, would help cut consumption; for example, by upping standards for common household appliances.

Over the years, there has been much talk at the national level about addressing our energy woes. It wasn't until earlier this year, however, that a serious legislative drafting process began in Michigan, due, in large part, to pressure and support from our energy coalition. Now, although there are no clear frontrunners, several versions of needed bills are being developed, and Michigan LCV is working within the coalition to support the strongest measures possible.

We are supporting measures that guarantee a 20% reduction in emissions by 2020, with minimum decreases of 1% each year. We are also pushing for "renewable" to be clearly defined to incorporate sustainable practices. And, we want to be sure that the costs for these vital investments in a New Energy Future do not burden consumers. Pushing for the absolute strongest laws now will result in the largest payoffs in the future.

Together, the RES and efficiency standards would address Michigan's current dependence on imported, expensive and dirty fossil fuels by investing in clean, home-grown energy alternatives like wind and solar. Investment in Michigan's untapped clean energy potential would also reinvigorate our state's sliding economy by creating over 7,000 new jobs and attracting hi-tech companies to the state, while simultaneously protecting our Great Lakes from mercury and lead poisoning, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and providing everyone in Michigan with cleaner air for generations to come.

Addressing clean energy has finally become a priority, but we still have work to do! Despite the jobs that promise to be part of investment in a New Energy Future, clean energy has not become an integral part of the conversation related to Michigan's budget crisis. As a result, there is concern that these critically important bills will remain stalled in committee. We encourage you to help keep this legislation on the priority list by voicing your support.

Please turn to page 6 for a few easy ways to make your voice heard

www.MichiganLCV.org

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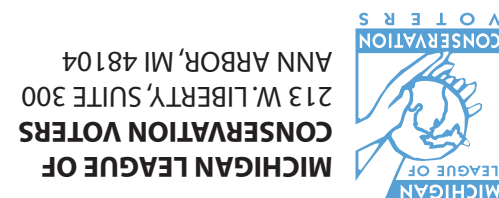
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Lisa addresses the crowd at a Michigan LCV fundraiser

Great Lakes, Great Threat: Why Michigan's Waters are in Trouble

By Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director

With thanks to Michigan LCV member Marcia Curran for her passionate words and conviction related to protecting our Great Lakes.

Did you know that the federal government and states surrounding Lake Michigan officially permit hazardous pollutants to be put into the lake? Did you also know that funding for our state regulatory agency—the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)—has plummeted over the course of the last seven years? This means the very entity in charge of permitting, monitoring and environmental enforcement in Michigan is drastically under-funded, leading to lack of necessary staff and the resources it needs to do its job.

The 1977 Clean Water Act gave the EPA authority to implement pollution control programs, and to set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters, making it “unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters.”

The EPA and their fellow state agencies like Michigan's DEQ currently permit industrial pollution to be dumped and mixed into our lake waters under the pretext that toxins will, in time, become diluted enough to reach “acceptable” toxicity levels.

This June Great Lakes' residents were outraged to find that BP Petroleum's Indiana oil refinery was granted an EPA sanctioned permit to dump an additional 1500 pounds of ammonia and nearly 5000 pounds of toxics containing solids, including mercury, into Lake Michigan every day. Despite a House of Representatives vote of 387-26 in favor of having Indiana reconsider BP's permit, the EPA stood firmly by its decision. EPA administrator Stephen Johnson stated in the August 1st edition of the Chicago Tribune that the permit was in accordance with the Clean Water Act, and that BP would be allowed to enact its plans. This was the first time in years a company has been permitted to increase its toxic dumping.

Had it not been for the passionate outcry from Great Lakes residents, the permit would have moved forward. But, the tens of thousands of letters, petitions, emails, and calls from the general public convinced BP to reconsider its application and, for now, their plans have been withdrawn.

While this is a tremendous victory, the bad news is that many other industries along the Great Lake's shoreline have been and continue to be given permits to dump large quantities of the very same chemicals that created such outcry in the BP case.

And, unfortunately, the state's prolonged budget crisis has weakened the state's environmental and natural resources infrastructure to such an extent that the protection of our water is in tremendous jeopardy. In fact, the state's two environmental and natural resource agencies—the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality—have borne disproportionate cuts during the last seven years, i.e., the two departments have suffered a 62 percent decline in support from the state's general fund¹.

Please see article conclusion on page 7

¹Check www.michiganlcvedfund.org to access our recent report on the state's funding crisis

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Great Lakes, Great Threat

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In short, Michigan faces an environmental and conservation funding crisis that is impacting the very agency that is responsible for permitting, monitoring, and enforcement of companies like BP. Without a strong and viable DEQ, there is no way to monitor the point source pollution going into our lakes; there is no way to ensure that our environmental laws are enforced in such a way that illegal dumping is brought to an end; and there is no way to prevent further degradation of our beautiful waterways.

The Great Lakes define our state, and clean fresh water is what sustains us all. Without bold action in coming years, which should include increased funding for our regulatory agency and the elimination of all point source pollution into our lakes, our Great Lakes existence is in jeopardy.

Show Your Support New Michigan LCV Merchandise!

We now have Michigan LCV and Michigan LCV Ed Fund t-shirts, as well as pint glasses.

The t-shirts come in unisex sizes, small through extra-large. They are 100% organic cotton, and were printed locally at VG Kids in Ypsilanti.

Choose between navy blue with orange text and chocolate brown with turquoise text. Both feature our logo in full color prominently on the back.

The pint glasses feature our logos and the wrap-around quote “Tap a keg, not the Great Lakes!”

T-shirts are \$18 and pint glasses are \$10. To order, e-mail info@michiganlcv.org or call 734.222.9650.

MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
Keeping Michigan clean, one politician at a time.

Orange on Navy Blue tee; Michigan LCV

I vote to protect the Great Lakes!

Turquoise on Chocolate Brown tee; Michigan LCV Ed Fund

Tap a keg, not the Great Lakes!

Wrap-around black text on pint glass

Michigan LCV Works with State House

Article continuation from page 1

+ First, check out our website at www.michiganlcvedfund.org to learn more about the renewable energy and energy efficiency debate.

+ Then, write a letter to the editor of your local paper. You can be sure that your representatives read their local papers everyday and a letter from a constituent can have tremendous sway. Tips on how to write a letter-to-the-editor can be found on our website at MichiganLCVEdFund.org/toolkit.htm. Also, feel free to contact us for one-on-one advice on crafting an effective letter which includes our requests.

+ You can also contact your representative directly, either by calling them in Lansing or, preferably, setting up a meeting in your home district. Again, Michigan LCV would be happy to help with the meeting or even attend if you would like.



One of Michigan's three wind turbines generates power in Leelanau County.



Bill Stough, CEO of SRG and former Michigan LCV Board Member

New Advisors Help Businesses Forge a New Eco-Economy Local Green Business Spotlight on Sustainable Research Group

Global economic, social and environmental systems are now changing at such a rapid pace that business leaders are beginning to develop long-range plans that re-evaluate their strategic role in the market place. Businesses are beginning to assess the impact of their products and services on Earth's ecosystems, and the environmental and social impact their products have on their customers. Adding these two new dimensions to their strategic approach to business has helped define environmental sustainability for global commerce.

Traditional thinking is that economic growth and development come at the expense of environmental quality. But, traditional thinking need not be true. Thanks to the skills and insight of the Sustainable Research Group (SRG), a new and positive relationship is possible between business and the environment. SRG, based in Grand Rapids, is an organization of experienced industry professionals dedicated to identifying, documenting, and improving business performance based on principles that are economically sound, environmentally healthy, and socially responsible. This approach is known as using the Triple Bottom Line to achieve a competitive advantage.

SRG operates with the belief that global competition for natural resources will drive organizations to seek maximum resource efficiency in the design, production and delivery of their services and products. Their goal is to help identify radical improvements in raw material usage, to promote a culture of continual improvement through the development of environmental business metrics, and to foster the creation of innovative products and services that solve existing or anticipated problems for their clients' employees, customers, and investors—or the Earth's biosphere.

SRG helps measure the environmental impact of a business's operation. They help develop a strategy to help increase a business's sustainability, and then identify the needed products and technologies. They have created regional networks to help businesses build relationships with other sustainable enterprises and give company sustainability champions a place to share experiences.

Today, a growing number of businesses, industry associations, and governmental units from many sectors are looking for assistance in the sustainability revolution. SRG is one of an elite few advisory firms that are helping to effect change in the market toward sustainable business for a sustainable world.

For more information, please visit www.sustainableresearchgroup.com.



GLGM Press Conference in Monroe. Rep. Kathy Angerer (HD 55), Rep. Kate Ebli (HD 56), Lynna Kaucheck of Clean Water Action, Brian Beauchamp and Elizabeth Palazzola of Michigan LCV. Photo credit David Olds

Keep Michigan's Water in Michigan! An Update on the Great Lakes, Great Michigan Campaign

The Great Lakes are truly one of the things that make Michigan a wonderful place to live. Michiganders are surprised, then, to learn that these majestic and important bodies of water are not protected from large-scale diversions and, in fact, are threatened by overuse.

In light of this threat, we are pleased to report that our State House of Representatives introduced a series of bills (HB5065-HB5071) that will strengthen Michigan's water laws and ratify Michigan's participation in a region-wide agreement addressing Great Lakes protection—the Great Lakes Compact. Michigan LCV, along with numerous organizations signed on to the Great Lakes, Great Michigan (GLGM) coalition, worked closely with lawmakers to develop this legislation and we will be toiling throughout the fall to build enough bi-partisan support in both chambers to ensure its passage.

Not surprisingly, our Michigan media play an enormous role in this campaign. Ensuring positive support from our statewide newspapers, as well as from local daily and weekly press throughout the state is essential. To that end, Michigan LCV helped host a series of press conferences around the state when the legislation was in its final form, and we've been meeting with editorial boards to discuss the rationale for ensuring that these bills become law.

In addition, Michigan LCV staff are currently going from district to district to speak with legislators and their constituents about the important role these bills will play in ensuring that future generations will know the Great Lakes as vast, beautiful inland seas, like we do today.

If you are interested in meeting your Representative or Senator regarding the state's investment in the Great Lakes, please contact us! There is also plenty of information on the campaign's website— www.greatlakesgreatmichigan.org—which may help you talk with friends, neighbors and colleagues about the vital protection of our Great treasures. If you check the website over the next few weeks, you'll be able to stay up to date on our progress and spend just a minute taking action by sending an e-mail to your lawmakers.

Thank you!

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A Successful Summer Season of Fairs, Festivals, and Fundraisers!

From Onekema to Ypsilanti and Manchester to Escanaba, Michigan LCV was out tabling and fundraising this summer at community events, getting the word out about our issues and organization and collecting petition signatures.

We started out in our home base in Ann Arbor with the Mayor's Green Fair, where we joined other regional organizations all working to promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles. We then headed to Grand Rapids for the Water Festival where we enjoyed many talented Michigan bands, including Daisy May and Seth Bernard, Steppin' In It, and Breathe Owl Breathe. We also enjoyed presentations given by dynamic speakers such as Terry Swier of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, CEO of Rockford Companies John Wheeler, and Maureen Taylor of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization.

After that, it was up north to the Energy Fair (1) in Onekema where Daisy May performed with Seth Bernard on a solar powered stage (2) and presenters spoke about the importance of alternative energy sources.

Michigan LCV also held a number of extremely successful and fun fundraisers this summer. In early July, with the much appreciated support of business owners Matt and Rene Greff, we gathered at the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti (3), where Alison Swan (4) and other Michigan authors read excerpts of their wonderful book *Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes*. We held another wonderful fundraiser later that month in Ann Arbor, featuring keynote speaker and chairwoman of the State House *Great Lakes and Environment Committee*, Representative Rebekah Warren.

In late July, we headed to the streets to speak with the masses at the non-profit organization section of the Ann Arbor Art Fair (5).

Early August saw us winding down and kicking back to folky tunes at the Manchester Riverfolk Festival. Finally, we joined forces with the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and Save the Wild Upper Peninsula (6) for a six day UP State Fair marathon of mobilizing around sulfide mining.

We are deeply grateful to all who attended these events, helped out at one of the Michigan LCV event tables, became members, signed a petition, bought merchandise, or just came by to say "Hi." It was a thrill to meet you all! Remember to check our websites for upcoming events, and we hope to see you out there!

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Great Lakes Bioneers Conference In Detroit at Marygrove College and in Traverse City at Northwest Michigan College October 19th-21st

The Bioneers Conference is a full weekend of workshops, presentations, video screenings, concerts, and locally grown meals. Topics covered include health, the environment, art, education, food, and economics. Child care will be provided.

For more information, to register, or to see the full schedules visit the websites:

Detroit: www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers
Traverse City: www.glbconference.org

Earth Tones Concert 2007 Featuring Daisy May & Seth Bernard At The Ark in Ann Arbor Tuesday, November 20th

Enjoy amazing Michigan musicians Daisy May and Seth Bernard as you support Michigan LCV and Michigan's environment by attending our 2007 Earth Tones Concert! Check our website for to be announced special guests.

Tickets will be \$35 per person with a special student rate of \$10 per person. Corporate and individual sponsorships are also available.

Please call us at 734.222.9650 or e-mail
Nell@MichiganLCV.org for more information.



(1) Volunteer Roz Heidtke talks with a presenter at the Energy Fair



(2) Daisy May and Seth Bernard perform at the Energy Fair



(3) Debra Lord, Rachel Dewees, and Kristine Mucher enjoy the great micro-brewed beer at the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti



(4) Alison Swan speaks at the Corner Brewery



(5) MI LCV Staffers Ari Sussman and Elizabeth Palazzola chat with a visitor at the Ann Arbor Art Fair



(6) MI LCV Intern Johanna Franzen takes a stance at the UP State Fair: "Say nah to da sulfide mining, eh?"