TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Aquila Resources' Back Forty Project, a proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine, would be located on the banks of the Menominee River, which empties into Lake Michigan and is one of the largest watersheds in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The Menominee River provides a unique habitat for species of special concern such as lake sturgeon and freshwater mussels, which would be negatively impacted by discharges into the water. The potential impacts of the mine include long term leaching of acid-producing wastes into the groundwater and the river. The hazardous wastes generated by the mine would degrade water quality and present risks to human health and the environment in Wisconsin as well as Michigan. Potential economic losses including reduction in property values and loss of tourism revenue are not factored into the permitting review process.

Approval of this mine will result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, including Native American gravesites and other areas of historical significance.

This resolution opposes Aquila's Back Forty metallic sulfide mine and urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to deny a mining permit for the Back Forty Project.

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Agriculture, Extension Education, Land Conservation & Zoning Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does oppose Aquila's Back Forty metallic sulfide mine and urges the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to deny a mining permit for the Back Forty Project, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Outagamie County Land Conservationist, all Wisconsin Counties, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Outagamie County Lobbyist for distribution to Governor Walker and the state legislators representing Marinette County.

Dated this ____ day of July 2017
Respectfully Submitted,

AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION
EDUCATION, ZONING & LAND
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Daniel Rettler

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Keith Suprise

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Daniel Melchert

______________________________
Debra VanderHeiden

______________________________
BJ O'Connor-Schevers

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _______________________

Signed: ________________________  ________________________
Board Chairperson  County Clerk

Approved: ________________________  Vetoed: ________________________

Signed: ________________________
County Executive