



District 1

Donald E. Blatt
District Director
Teresa M. Cassidy
Assistant Director

September 27, 2022

Sent via Email

garyHowell@house.mi.gov

Representative Gary Howell

Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

S-1186 House Office Building

124 West Allegan

Lansing, MI 48909

Re: USW District 1 Opposition to HB 6403

Dear Chairman Howell:

I write to you in opposition of HB 6403, which is scheduled to be heard tomorrow in the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation. Our union is the largest mining union in the United States, and we represent several thousand workers at mines in Michigan.

Health and safety is of the most critical importance to our membership. HB 6403 would amend the law around mining inspectors to limit the requirements for mine inspectors to only ferrous mines. This eliminates protections for workers in copper mines and continues to leave out miners in other types of mines in the state. All mines in Michigan should be inspected by a duly elected Inspector (County or State, not just at the Federal Level) that represents the interests of the community, miners and not just corporations.

We are also concerned that HB 6403 eliminates inspections of abandoned mines at the county level. Abandoned mines can be dangerous areas and should not be neglected.

Our union opposes HB 6403 as written and urges the committee to either amend the legislation or reject this piece of legislation. Our union looks forward to working with you on keeping all miners in Michigan safe.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Blatt
Director – USW District 1

c: Committee Clerk Molly Wingrove (via email)
Teresa Cassidy, Assistant Director
Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

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