

# Town of Lynne

Oneida County  
Tripoli, WI 54564

June 4, 2012

Oneida County Board  
P.O. Box 400, Courthouse  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Dear Oneida County Board Supervisors:

On November 11, 2011, we wrote you to inform you that we oppose development of a possible metallic mineral mine in the Town of Lynne for the following five reasons.

- Environmental impact, most notably water quality. We do not believe it is possible to guarantee that our groundwater and surface water resources will not be polluted. We respectfully remind you of the fact that the current Oneida County Land and Resource Management Plan, a document approved by your members, lists nine (9) streams within the Town of Lynne as “Exceptional Resource Waters” (EWR), and the Willow Reservoir, which lies less than one-half mile from the proposed mine site, is designated as an “Outstanding Resource Water” (OWR).
- Both short and long term economic impact. A sudden influx of residents, workers and housing that would have a temporary life span would have both short and long term negative impacts on property values and businesses in the Town.
- Noise pollution. Machinery and trucks would only add to existing traffic noise and have detrimental effects on our quality of life and tourism.
- Overuse of existing resources and infrastructure. Roads, utilities and forest resources would be taxed to their limits and require constant repair. Fire and ambulance resources are currently inadequate for such a large operation.
- Dissatisfaction with the interested parties. All three of the interested mining companies have either no mining experience or poor track records with mining operations.

In addition, since we wrote to you on November 11, 2011, we have learned that more than one local Native American Tribe has taken a position against the potential mine and the Tribes support our position that the County Committee has improperly moved forward with “how” to proceed to develop a potential mine but has failed to consider “whether” such a mine “should” ever be considered or developed?

Therefore, it is our view that the County has been “putting the cart before the horse,” as it has failed to consult with the neighboring Tribes and invite them to discuss this issue in any meaningful manner. This process, in which the County has explored “how” to proceed with a mine, has taken place over more than two and a half years with over \$50,000 of taxpayer dollars being spent and very little useful or objective information obtained in the process.

We would also like to point out that the potential mine would be in direct conflict with the Oneida County ordinance which prohibits mining or mining operations in wetlands.

In addition, the Town of Lynne will use its authority to veto any change the County may approve to the zoning of land that would be subject to potential mining.

Furthermore, the Town of Lynne has a new mining ordinance which strictly regulates and may prohibit a proposed mine. As such, the Town not only has authority to approve or disapprove County zoning changes within the Town, but it also has its own, independent regulatory authority over mining through its mining ordinance. The Town may use this authority to strictly regulate or prohibit mining within the Town of Lynne in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of Town residents and property owners.

Finally, for all of the above reasons we urge you, as elected Oneida County Supervisors, to immediately stop supporting and pursuing the development of a metallic mineral mine in the Town of Lynne.

Sincerely,

The Town of Lynne Board of Supervisors:

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Dave Schatzley, Town Chairperson

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Jeffrey Viegut, Supervisor

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Lloyd Strasburg, Supervisor

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Kriste Strasburg, Local Impact  
Committee Chairperson