

Prove It First! (the afl-cio has its facts wrong!)

Minnesota can help ensure that mining activities are safe for the both people and the environment by supporting “Prove It First”.

FACT: The industry does not need nickel for EV batteries. New Lithium Ferrous (Iron) Phosphate (LFP) batteries are quickly taking over the market. Over 2 years ago, Tesla reported in their IQ22 quarterly report that nearly half of their EVs were shipping with non-nickel LFP batteries. (https://tesla-cdn.thron.com/static/IOSHZZ_TSLA_Q1_2022_Update_G9MOZE.pdf). The market share for LFP non-nickel batteries continues to increase and new better non-nickel battery chemistries are starting to be deployed (e.g. LMFP batteries).

FACT:Very little copper is used in an EV. On average an EV uses 80kg of copper. With annual global EV sales of 10 Million cars, only 3.6% of world supply of copper used in EVs. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2024/mcs2024-copper.pdf> and <https://internationalcopper.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017.06-E-Mobility-Factsheet-1.pdf>

FACT: US produces 0.472% of the worlds supply of nickel with about 0.26% of worldwide reserves based on 2024 USGS data. US nickel production and reserves make NO DIFFERENCE in the global supply chain. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2024/mcs2024-nickel.pdf>

FACT: “Prove It First” DOES NOT ban mining. Rather, it places the responsibility on the industry to show that they can mine safely without serious environmental damage. If you vote against “Prove It First”, you are acknowledging that mining pollutes.

FACT:“Prove It First” DOES NOT impede the science based environmental process. Indeed, if the mining industry was so confident that they can mine without pollution, they should be all for this resolution. But opposition to this resolution shows that the mining industry and interests KNOW that sulfide mining is dangerous and are willing to distort the facts to avoid addressing the issues.

FACT: USA Nickel all comes from high integrity countries NOT countries with weak environmental laws. According to the USGS survey on nickel, 57% of US need comes from recycling. The remaining comes from Canada, 46%; Norway, 9%; Finland, 7% and others. Mine mining interests say we should mine here because other countries have weak environmental laws. BUT USGS data shows that US mining has no impact on the worldwide market. If mining companies were so concerned about weak laws ... why don't they mine with integrity / safe practices!

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