



Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wed. April 5, 2023, 10am CT

*Everyone is invited to attend our open community virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 10am CT. This is an opportunity for you to learn about the proposed **Prove It First Law**. It is a common sense protection that says, "Before risky sulfide mining moves forward in Minnesota, there should be at least one example in the United States where it has been done safely." Join Friends of the Boundary Waters and others in the campaign who will recap the Prove It First Legislation meetings with legislators from the previous day at the Capitol in St. Paul.*

Download Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets
<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html>

If you believe nickel-sulfide mining is too risky in Aitkin County, Tamarack Water Alliance has yard signs with this messaging available. Your \$6 donation helps defray costs. Email waters@tamarackwateralliance.org to arrange pickup of your sign.

We hope you will share this information with others and keep in touch as we build a community that can protect water and health from the dangers of sulfide mining.

Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to sign up for the monthly Tamarack Water Alliance [email newsletter](http://eepurl.com/hOboEb) (<http://eepurl.com/hOboEb>).

Prove It First Legislation

Tamarack Water Alliance volunteers have been meeting with other local community residents who share our concern about the proposed Rio Tinto - Talon mine. Time and again, we hear people saying, *"If they are going to do something risky, like mining for*

metals in a wet area, then they ought to make sure they can do it right."

The proposed **"Prove It First Law"** is about exactly this. It is a common sense protection that says, "Before risky sulfide mining moves forward in Minnesota, there should be at least one example in the United States where it has been done safely."

This protection makes a lot of sense for Aitkin County residents. Our beloved lakes, rivers, peatlands and drinking water are put at risk by the Tamarack or Talon Metals nickel mine that is close to initiating a permitting process with state regulators.

Global mining giant Rio Tinto–Kennecott controls the mineral leases that Talon Metals is currently exploring and marketing to investors. Rio Tinto–Kennecott have a documented track record of environmental degradation and human rights abuses all around the **globe**. On March 6, Rio Tinto agreed to pay \$15 million USD to settle a seven-year bribery scandal regarding the undeveloped Simandou iron ore deposit in Guinea, one of the most valuable in the world.

Because of the company's history, we must be very careful. Global mining companies spend millions on lobbyists and marketing, all in an effort to downplay the dangers of their projects, especially to local communities.

These corporate buyouts happen here in Aitkin County, as well as in Washington, and as a result, federal investment in industrial development has now preceded any local or regional studies or reviews of mine safety.

Before any official permitting, scientific studies, or consultations with Native nations have even begun about the controversial Rio Tinto-Talon mine, the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$114 million in federal subsidies to Talon Metals for a "battery materials processing" plant located in North Dakota – which would process material mined in Tamarack and transported by rail.

This facility has also not undergone any permitting or scientific review, but according to Talon Metals, it would streamline the permitting process in Minnesota in Talon's favor.

This is not a Democrat or Republican issue, it is about being fair and responsible neighbors, and applying rigorous standards to new development projects. Most Minnesotans support protections which require independent scientific proof that a copper-nickel mine has operated safely in the US for at least 10 years without causing pollution and that the mine has closed for 10 years without causing pollution before allowing such a mine in Minnesota. https://www.mncenter.org/2021_poll

We support the proposed Prove It First Law - and hope to expand conversation about this issue to other local residents who want to help to protect the places we all love.

SIGN UP FOR PROVE IT FIRST DAY TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023

Join a group of local residents headed to the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul to talk with lawmakers together about protecting our clean water. Please **contact us** if you are interested in carpooling or caravanning. We will be leaving the rest stop in McGregor at

approximately 8AM.

RSVP <https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=28>

Find your lawmaker to request a meeting:
<https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

More information <https://www.friends-bwca.org/prove-it-first/>



Greenwashing of Talon Metals Will Not Wash Away Concerns

“Talon Metals has not yet submitted a formal mine plan to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, but it has briefed investors. Soon, the company will be seeking permits for wetland destruction and the discharge of contaminants into the air and water — normal aspects of a mining operation. ...Residents of Aitkin County — and visitors who love our lakes, rivers, and quiet places — have valid reasons to be concerned and to advocate for caution.”

– Susan Derby, local resident and retired railroad engineer, February 28, 2023
<https://www.duluthnewtribune.com/opinion/columns/in-response-greenwashing-of-talon-metals-wont-wash-away-concerns>

Mille Lacs Launches Campaign- Water Over Nickel

"...the Mille Lacs Band, along with its allies, including the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, argue a mine would endanger water resources in the Mississippi and St. Croix River watersheds, along with drinking water for Band members who live only about a mile away from the proposed mine site."

Dan Kraker, Duluth, March 14, 2023, Mille Lacs Band Launches Campaign To Raise Concerns About Proposed Mine,

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/03/14/mille-lacs-band-launches-campaign-to-fight-proposed-nickel-mine>

Learn more: Water Over Nickel <https://www.waterovernickel.com/>

Sierra Club March 30, 2023 Virtual Meet-Up - 6:30- 8PM

As Northern Minnesotans we come together as neighbors, caring for each other and this land's precious lakes, rivers and streams. We know better than to listen to extractive, profit-driven companies telling us they care about the climate or our communities. Join Sierra Club and other partners for this virtual meet-up for those interested in water, climate, and justice in our region!

RSVP here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002Nk7CAAS&mapLinkHref>

Who We Are

Tamarack Water Alliance (tamarackwateralliance.org) is a group of local residents and landowners working together with others from across Minnesota to protect water and community health from the dangers of sulfide mining near our beloved lakes and wild rice beds, at the headwaters of the Kettle River and in the Mississippi River watershed.

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company to mine nickel and other metals near Tamarack in Aitkin County threatens the health of our communities. This kind of sulfide mining, especially in water-rich environments, has never been done without severe impacts to water and the health of those downstream. Mining here is also a threat to

environmental justice and the long-term economic security of nearby native and rural communities.

Review our community slide presentation,
(tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf)

Download seven informative flyers: (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html>)

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,
- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,
- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Minnesota Regulators Poor Record In Protecting The Environment,
- Eagle Mine Environmental Report & Saving Our Meager Nickel Reserves

We will be sending this monthly newsletter to keep you informed about this project, to share information and opportunities to act, and to invite you to gatherings where you can connect with others who share a passion for clean water and community health.

