

I wish to thank the committee for this opportunity to comment on the bills that are under consideration. We believe that legislation is needed in this area and are hopeful that an adequate measure can be enacted.

Sincerely,

C. R. GUTERMUTH, *Vice President.*

LAW OFFICES,
SULLIVAN, McMILLAN, HANFT & HASTINGS,
Duluth, Minn., May 3, 1968.

Re S. 3132, Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968.

Hon. LEE METCALF,

*Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR METCALF: We were privileged on April 30 and May 1 to attend the hearings of your committee at the open hearing held in connection with S. 3132, S. 217 and S. 3126. We found this hearing to be very worthwhile, and I would like to express a short statement to your committee on behalf of the members of the Lake Superior Industrial Bureau, for whom I am counsel. This organization consists of the principal iron mining and taconite companies in Minnesota, including United States Steel Corporation, Reserve Mining Company, Erie Mining Company, Pickands Mather & Co., Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, Eveleth Taconite Company, Snyder Mining Company, and others.

Your committee appeared to be considering most seriously S. 3132, and on behalf of these Minnesota companies we would like to go on record as endorsing in their entirety the statements made by Joseph A. Abdnor on behalf of the American Mining Congress, by Dr. S. W. Sundeen of Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, John Boentje of Pittsburgh Pacific Company, Hugo Johnson of the American Iron Ore Association and Minnesota Commissioner of Conservation, Jarle Leirfallom.

We are unanimously of the opinion that federal regulation of surface mining practices in the iron ore industry in Minnesota is both unnecessary and impractical. As stated by Commissioner Leirfallom, we think that the State of Minnesota should be given an opportunity to deal on a state level with such problems as may exist in this industry before we are subjected to the type of regulation proposed in S. 3132. We also submit, with all due respect to this proposal, that its enforcement—particularly with reference to taconite and small mining operations—could very well impose a burden sufficient to harm those companies to the extent that their continuance might be difficult, and, as also stated by the various witnesses, give a great advantage to foreign ores, which are even now posing a serious competitive threat to this industry in Minnesota.

In the event your committee reports out this legislation without excluding the iron ore and taconite industry, we will be making every effort to bring our point to view of our Minnesota Senators, Eugene McCarthy and Walter Mondale, and are accordingly sending each of these gentlemen a copy of this communication. We are also addressing a copy of this letter to the Hon. John A. Blatnik, Member of Congress from this district.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD H. HASTINGS.

SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE,
Washington, D.C., May 21, 1968.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,

*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Sport Fishing Institute wishes to comment on the proposed legislation by the Congress which deals with the regulation of surface mining and the restoration of such mined lands. This is contained in S. 217, S. 3126, and S. 3132.

Mr. Chairman, few actions of man are more destructive of the earth's surface and man's compatibility with nature than that of strip-mining. Aside from the ugly and extensive physical scarring of the landscape, the pollutional results—in terms of erosion, silt, and acids unleashed on downstream areas—are often disastrous. The steam electric power industry apparently has an insatiable