

HB6403

Molly Wingrove

From: local4974@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Molly Wingrove; Rep. Gary Howell (District 82)
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Subject: HB 6403

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Dear Chair Howell and Clerk Wingrove,

It has come to our Local's attention that **House Bill 6403** is scheduled for tomorrow's committee session. Due to short notice we are unable to attend this meeting in person. We are concerned this bill goes too far in limiting the power of our County Mine Inspector. As the 2 Union Locals that service the Tilden Mine, we feel that the safety of all miners is of the utmost importance. We believe 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 do not agree with the proposed change to only inspect ferrous mineral mines.

Our other concern with HB 6403 is the elimination of inspections of abandoned mines at the County level. We would however, be ok with the State taking over this important responsibility of keeping abandoned mines safe. There have been many injuries and even deaths that have occurred in these dangerous abandoned areas. We must also remember, many of these mines are the final resting ground for numbers of workers that remain there to this day, who paid the ultimate price in the name of building this State and Nation.

Sincerely,

Tricia Anderson President USW Local 4974
Dan Ruokolainen President USW Local 4950

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