



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION NETWORK**

612 W. Main Street, #200
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 256-0827
lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org

<http://www.lwwwi.org>

February 16, 2012

Statement on Mining Legislation

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network was shocked to learn that Senator Fitzgerald has dissolved the Senate Select Committee on Mining Jobs, canceled the public hearing scheduled in Platteville, and is referring the Assembly mining bill to the Joint Finance Committee.

This is a disgraceful breach of public process. This utter disrespect for public input is reflected in the mining legislation itself, which weakens environmental protections while reducing opportunities for citizen comment or legal redress.

Current mining law balances the needs of mining companies against the public interest in clean air and water. It recognizes that mining inevitably leads to pollution and destruction of natural areas, yet offers reasonable environmental protection if the DNR has the time, resources and information needed to make a vigilant decision.

The mining bill guts these elements and constitutes a give-away of our natural heritage and our civic legacy. The process by which it is being advanced, and the legislation itself, should be rejected.