



# Marquette County Ambassadors

## Position Paper

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### **Thank you for the following:**

- Efforts to create and pass the mining severance tax
- Maintaining and growth of Pure Michigan funding
- MEDC funding and regionalization efforts
- Attendance at the UP200
- Recognition of the UP and it's unique needs and economy
- Timely passage of state budget annually

### **SHORT TERM ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGION:**

- Support for regulatory requirements to complete joint venture at Presque Isle Power Plant
- Air permit approval for Rio Tinto Eagle mine
- Transportation funding that keeps current distribution formula intact
- Support Medicaid expansion to 133% of federal poverty level as recommended by Governor
- Support creation of health insurance exchange
- Provide flexibility to Highly Qualified status for small and rural schools
- Oppose additional land being put into trust creating an unfair tax advantage; support the KBIC request to move to Negaunee Township
- Support of the HB 4073; HB 4088; HB 4465; HB4466; SB 133 amendments to the Michigan Merit Curriculum

### **LONG TERM ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGION:**

- Need for infrastructure upgrades ie. roads, transmission, broadband, cellular coverage
- Cease of operations late 2014 of Empire Mine
- Support and increased funding of higher education preparing our future workforce
- Continue to close equity gap for k-12 schools
- Continued support and funding of early childhood education
- Remove cumbersome reporting requirements and unfunded mandates for education and local government