

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Together we move forward

Volunteers who have stepped up to serve on teams formed to help this community recover from a job curtailment at this area's largest employer deserve our thanks and support.

Three teams have been formed in response to the plan by Boise Inc. to eliminate by October 265 jobs from the paper mill in International Falls.

Instead of throwing our hands up and waiting for the sky to fall, leaders of this community have brought people together in an effort to find the resources to meet the immediate needs of the mill workers to be displaced, consider how to diversify the local economy, and to look to forward for long-term economic solutions.

As a result of moving forward together, the teams will focus on their names: Business Development and Retention; Long-term Vision and Strategy; and Worker Retention and Assistance.

Each team is made up of people who must truly care about this community and its future to offer to serve, committing their time and energy toward the greater good. Some of the members

of the teams may be familiar to community, as they are business owners, public figures, and elected officials, while others work behind the scenes as retired people, agency employees and staff.

This first meeting scheduled for July 24 is likely to be organizational, setting times and dates to meet and perhaps adopting protocols. But after that we believe that these three groups of people will bring their ideas, contacts and enthusiasm to find ways to meet the goals of the names of their teams.

And it's likely that members of these teams will reach out to other members of the community for input and expertise in certain areas of their assignments. We urge this community to open its hearts and minds to the members of these teams should they be tapped to assist.

Clearly, the members of these teams have huge responsibility in finding a way forward that will lead to economic stability and growth. We thank them for taking on this task, wish them the best for all our sakes and look forward to a bright future.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The price of voting liberal

To the editor, I have heard Minnesotans say, "I wish Minnesota had the oil boom of North Dakota."

That invites an exercise that asks: what would happen if two trillion cubic feet of natural gas were found under Eveleth this afternoon?

Well, you can bet that the environmentalists would protest the press conference. Then they will claim that gas production, fracking, fracking sand production and pipeline construction cause haze over Voyageurs National Park. Friends of BWCA will claim that fracking water disposal will contaminate the pristine waters of the BWCA — even though it is on the other side of the continental divide. They will claim that the lights atop the drilling rigs will be seen all over the BWCA.

Labor unions will protest because the storage facilities are being built by the lowest bidder; a non-union shop from Georgia. (Congressman) Rick Nolan will claim that he wants the jobs of gas production but he can't support the present plan because it doesn't assure zero impact on ground water. (U.S. Sens.) Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar will introduce a bill to protect land owners

from getting rich. (Minnesota Sen.) Tom Bakk will introduce a bill to place a tax on gas production in Minnesota and place it under the Taconite Taxing District of the IRRRB.

The Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club and the Minnesota Environmental Partnership will sue to stop any gas production. They will claim that the production area is inside the buffer zone of their newly proposed International Heart of the Continent Biosphere Reserve that includes Quetico, Superior National Forest, Voyageurs and the BWCA.

The state legislature will revisit the narrowly dodged moratorium on fracking sand operations in Minnesota. The environmental front group, Save our 10,000 Lakes will hold protests at the capital during the special session to evaluate the impact of a population boom on the Iron Range. They will claim that fracking pollutes well water and that fracking chemicals cause genetic mutations and cancer.

The IRRRB will provide a \$50 million forgivable infrastructure loan but will not make an unequivocal statement of support for the

project and its jobs.

At least, someday, we can take clean fresh water out of Lake Superior, transport it by tanker and trade it to the Arabs for oil. Well no, we can't. Every drop is locked up under an environmentally friendly, protectionist international compact called the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Compact. Not a drop can be removed and sold.

Under the sway of DFL liberal politics, Minnesota is screwed. Whether it's pulpwood in endless supply, copper in world-class deposits, the world's largest volume of liquid fresh water, 17,000 lakes or fracking sand in nearly unlimited quantities, Minnesota will find a way to screw the golden goose before it even hatches.

Average household income of GOP Chisago County: \$67,075. Average household income of DFL International Falls: \$30,094. The annual cost to your family of voting DFL: \$36,921. The value of throwing (Gov. Mark) Dayton, Bakk, (Minnesota Rep. David) Dill and Nolan under the bus: priceless.

Terry Stone International Falls, MN

Museum should add wall for Youso

To the editor, A few weeks ago we had the opportunity to visit International Falls.

Visiting the museum was one of the highlights and we were thrilled to see a group of Scouts and their leader from Illinois and Beloit, Wis., come to learn the history of the area and the legend of Bronko Nagurski. The curator and caretaker of

the museum is a gold mine of historical information and is one of the best public relations representatives of your area with his wealth of information.

We think the community should add another wall and dedication area to Frank Youso for all his accomplishments and keeping the Falls on the map with his delightful book. He is another

soft spoken man of great character and integrity and indeed another local boy made good alongside Bronko.

Hopefully there will be a community group to get the ball rolling.

You live in a beautiful piece of paradise in the midst of God's creation.

Bette Jayne Haak North St. Paul, MN

How to contact your lawmakers

FEDERAL OFFICES

**President Barack Obama**  
Democrat  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20500  
202-456-1111  
Website:  
www.whitehouse.gov  
E-mail:  
president@whitehouse.gov

**U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan**  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515  
202-225-6211  
Website: www.nolan.house.gov  
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan  
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Duluth Office of Congressman Rick Nolan (TEMPORARY)  
Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse  
515 West First Street, Room 235  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218-464-5095, 5096, 5097 and 5098

Brainerd Office of Congressman Rick Nolan  
Brainerd City Hall  
501 Laurel Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
218-454-4078

**U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar**  
Democrat  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-3244

Minnesota Office:

1200 Washington Avenue South, Suite 250  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612-727-5220  
Website:  
www.klobuchar.senate.gov

**U.S. Sen. Al Franken**  
Democrat  
Senate Hart Building 320  
Washington DC 20510  
202-224-5641  
Website:  
www.alfranken.com  
E-Mail:  
info@franken.senate.gov

STATE OFFICES

**Gov. Mark Dayton**  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN, 55155  
800-657-3717  
E-mail:  
Mark.Dayton@state.mn.us

**Rep. David Dill**  
571 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
800-339-0466  
rep.david.dill@house.mn  
Assistant: Joan Harrison

**Sen. Tom Bakk**  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol, Room 226  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
Capitol Office phone:  
(651) 296-8881  
Email:  
www.senate.mn/  
senatorbakkemail

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Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author's city address will be published.

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