



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 106		DATE: 2/10/2025	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER FOSTER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-480-2228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HORIZON DEVELOPMENT		TITLE: DEVELOPER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 8			
CITY: OSAGE BEACH		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65065
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: IKE SKELTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-525-1906	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CAMDEN COUNTY. MO		TITLE: PRESIDING COMMISSIONER	
ADDRESS: 1 COURT CENTER NW			
CITY: CAMDENTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65020
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN HOFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 678-449-7913	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OSAGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL		TITLE: ALDERMAN W2	
ADDRESS: 1000 OSAGE BEACH PARKWAY			
CITY: OSAGE BEACH		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65065
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 11:55 PM
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I am in Support of this Bill on the surface. I just hope that this Legislation is not abused, causing problems and liabilities.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL KLEINSORGE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-821-2040	
REPRESENTING: INFRA		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11863 COUNTY ROAD 393			
CITY: HOLTS SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65043
EMAIL: dan@inframissouri.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2025 10:43 AM	
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I will give my testimony verbally.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA FILE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jesfile@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 3:26 PM
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I am opposed to this bill. Why in the world would Missouri allow people to mine wherever they want without any oversight? This will only lead to unsafe conditions, environmental destructions. We need common sense protections in place.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 2:49 PM
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please protect our land it is not limitless.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 7:36 PM

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I am in strong opposition to HB 106 (Vernetti), a bill that threatens to undermine the health, safety, and environmental well-being of Missourians. This legislation seeks to make it easier for mining operations to proceed without proper oversight, further eroding the already limited protections in place for our communities, natural resources, and environment. Missouri’s current statutes already have some of the most lax permitting requirements for mining operations in the nation. Despite this, HB 106 seeks to remove even the minimal conditions that allow mining without a permit. Specifically, the bill eliminates the requirement that a site not be designated as a surface mine by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. It also allows for the processing of minerals through crushing, screening, or other means of beneficiation without requiring a permit. These changes are not minor technical adjustments—they are sweeping deregulations that will open the door to unchecked mining activities. By removing these conditions, HB 106 effectively greenlights permit-free mining on a scale that Missourians have never seen before. This is a dangerous precedent. Mining operations, even those that seem small or localized, can have significant environmental and public health consequences. Without proper oversight, there is no guarantee that these operations will not contaminate our air, pollute our water, or damage private property. Missourians do not want rampant, unregulated mining. They want responsible policies that protect their health, their land, and their communities. The potential for harm is particularly concerning when it comes to water quality. Mining activities can release harmful chemicals and sediments into nearby streams, rivers, and groundwater, threatening both ecosystems and drinking water supplies. Missouri is home to some of the most pristine waterways in the country, and we cannot afford to put them at risk. Similarly, the removal of oversight for crushing and screening minerals could lead to increased dust and particulate matter in the air, exacerbating respiratory issues and other health problems for nearby residents. In addition, HB 106 undermines the principle of accountability. Permitting processes exist for a reason: to ensure that mining operations are conducted responsibly and with consideration for their impact on the environment and surrounding communities. By removing even the limited conditions that allow permit-free mining, this bill sends a message that Missouri is open for business at any cost—even if that cost is paid by the health and well-being of its citizens. HB 106 is a step in the wrong direction for Missouri. It prioritizes the interests of a few over the needs of the many, sacrificing our health, property, and natural resources in the process. I urge you to stand with the people of Missouri and vote "no" on HB 106.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 8:58 PM

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The League of Women Voters supports management of land as a finite resource not as a commodity, since land ownership, whether public or private, carries responsibility for stewardship, and land-use planning that reflects conservation and wise management of resources. This bill removes some of the very limited conditions that allow one to mine within the confines of real property without a permit, making it even easier to mine permit-free. The League opposes this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 6:41 PM	

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February 10, 2025
 Chairman Tricia Barnes
 House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 313-3
 Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 106, if passed, would significantly weaken Missouri's surface mining regulations by expanding exemptions from permitting requirements and removing crucial oversight provisions. We strongly urge you to vote "no" on HB 106. Of particular concern is the proposed revision to Section 444.766.2(2). The current law includes specific criteria that help regulators and operators clearly distinguish between legitimate land improvement activities and mining operations requiring permits. The removal of these criteria would create regulatory uncertainty and potentially allow commercial mining operations to avoid necessary environmental and safety oversight. The bill would also eliminate the requirement that a site's designation by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration be considered when determining if a surface mining permit is needed. This federal designation serves as an important objective standard in the current regulatory framework. Its removal would weaken Missouri's ability to ensure proper oversight of mining operations in order to protect the safety, health, and wellbeing of those who live, work, and recreate nearby and downstream. Surface mining operations can have significant impacts on water quality, soil stability, and local ecosystems. The current permitting process ensures these impacts are properly evaluated and mitigated. Weakening these requirements could lead to increased environmental degradation and higher costs for future remediation. In conclusion, HB 106 would substantially weaken Missouri's ability to regulate surface mining activities effectively. The removal of key oversight provisions and specific criteria for determining when permits are required would create unnecessary regulatory uncertainty and potential environmental risks. We respectfully urge you to vote "no" on HB 106 and maintain Missouri's current system of surface mining regulation.

Sincerely,
 Melissa Vatterott
 Director of Policy and Strategy
 Missouri Coalition for the Environment
 mvatterott@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600 ext. 111



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE D		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: momo365@mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 8:32 PM
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As a professional engineer with extensive expertise in mine permitting and environmental regulation, I strongly oppose HB 106 (Verneti). This bill threatens to undermine the health, safety, and environmental integrity of Missouri by dismantling critical safeguards that ensure responsible mining practices. My experience in this field has shown me firsthand the importance of oversight and accountability in mining operations, and HB 106 represents a dangerous departure from these principles. Missouri's current permitting requirements for mining are already among the most lenient in the nation. Despite this, HB 106 seeks to remove even the minimal conditions that allow mining without a permit. Specifically, the bill eliminates the requirement that a site not be designated as a surface mine by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). It also allows for the processing of minerals through crushing, screening, or other beneficiation methods without requiring a permit. These changes are not minor technical adjustments—they are sweeping deregulations that will open the door to unchecked and potentially harmful mining activities. From an engineering and environmental perspective, this is deeply concerning. Mining operations, even those that appear small or localized, can have significant impacts on air quality, water resources, and soil stability if not managed responsibly. Without proper oversight, there is no guarantee that these operations will not release harmful pollutants, degrade water quality, or cause erosion and sedimentation that damages ecosystems and private property. The potential impacts on water quality are particularly alarming. Mining activities have the potential to introduce heavy metals, chemicals, and sediments into nearby streams, rivers, and groundwater, threatening both aquatic ecosystems and drinking water supplies. Missouri is home to some of the most pristine waterways in the country, and we cannot afford to put them at risk. Additionally, the removal of oversight for crushing and screening minerals could lead to increased airborne particulate matter, exacerbating respiratory issues and other health problems for nearby communities. As someone who has worked extensively in mine permitting, I can attest that these processes exist for a reason. They ensure that mining operations are conducted responsibly, with proper consideration for their environmental and community impacts. By removing even the limited conditions that allow permit-free mining, HB 106 sends a dangerous message that Missouri is willing to sacrifice accountability for short-term gains. This is not just bad policy—it's a threat to the long-term well-being of our state. HB 106 is a step in the wrong direction for Missouri. It prioritizes the interests of a few over the needs of the many, putting our health, property, and natural resources at risk. I urge you to stand with the people of Missouri and vote "no" on HB 106. Let's uphold responsible mining practices that protect our environment and communities, rather than sacrificing them for the sake of deregulation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RIAV CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 6:30 PM
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