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September 29, 2011

Contact: Andrew Welhouse – 608-266-5660

### **Fitzgerald Announces Senate Committee on Mining Jobs**

**Madison, WI...** This morning, Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) formally announced the creation of a seven-member Senate Select Committee on Mining Jobs.

The committee's membership will be:

- Sen. Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) (Chair)
- Sen. Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center)
- Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay)
- Sen. Rich Zipperer (R-Pewaukee)
- Sen. Bob Jauch (D-Poplar)
- Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton)
- Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee)

"In the efforts of moving forward with our shared goal of creating jobs in Northern Wisconsin, we will be appointing Sens. Jauch, Erpenbach, and Carpenter to the committee," Fitzgerald said.

The proposed mine would be based in Iron and Ashland Counties. According to the latest figures, Iron County has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest jobless rate of any county at 10 percent, and Ashland County has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate at 9 percent.

Mining has long been a part of Wisconsin's history, from lead miners in the 1800s inspiring the 'Badger' nickname to roughly 2,900 Wisconsinites currently employed in the stone/sand/gravel quarrying

industry. According to the National Mining Association, metal mining employs more than 32,000 workers nationwide, and all mining employs more than 200,000.

In Northern Wisconsin, Gogebic Taconite has been exploring an iron ore project it says would employ about 700 direct mining jobs, 2,800 indirect jobs, 3,000 start-up construction jobs and create a \$2 billion economic impact.

“Mining has the potential to create good-paying, multi-generational jobs in a part of the state that desperately needs it, so I expect these seven senators to take a serious look at the issue,” Fitzgerald said.