

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

Great Lakes Businesses Support Legislation to Hold Polluters Accountable to Clean Up Contaminated Sites

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LANSING, Mich. (October 25, 2023) — The seven-bill package introduced to Michigan's legislature will ensure polluter accountability and increase transparency for contaminated site cleanup. The package, led by Sen. Jeff Irwin and Rep. Jason Morgan, would implement measures so corporations that pollute our land and water are responsible for paying to clean it up, not taxpayers.

"As a Michigan Small Business, we hold ourselves to a high standard when working with materials that could be damaging to the environment," said Peter Laing, Managing Partner of MAWBY Sparkling Wines and Big Little Wines. "We support this type of responsibility across all industries in Michigan, and the polluter accountability bills introduced by Senator Irwin and Rep. Morgan are a step in the right direction."

The Great Lakes Business Network and its over 200 members support responsible management of materials. The MAWBY and Big Little vineyards are [MAEAP-verified](#) (Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program), ensuring that the pollution risks from farming are eliminated or minimized.

Michigan has more than 24,000 known contaminated sites. The corporate polluters who caused the damage have evaded responsibility for cleanup costs at about half of those sites, putting the financial burden of "orphaned" sites on the state and, ultimately, taxpayers. Even at sites with a "responsible party," current law allows polluters to leave contamination in place if they limit access. The Polluter Pay legislation will set more stringent cleanup standards, increase transparency, prevent sites from becoming orphaned and make it easier for those harmed by pollution to seek justice.

The Great Lakes Business Network is a coalition of businesses dedicated to preserving the integrity and vitality of the Great Lakes, fostering sustainable business practices, and advocating for policies that protect the environment and the economy of the Great Lakes region. It is co-managed by National Wildlife Federation and Groundwork for Resilient Communities. Learn more at glbusinessnetwork.com

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