Jobs, yes;
clean water, no
To the editor:
That was the message I got while listening to State Representative Huuki and State Senator Casperson speak in Iron River on Saturday, April 10.

I told Casperson that the head of the mining team, under oath in a court preceeding, admitted he and his team did not adhere to N0. 3 of Section 63205, in Part 632 of Michigan's Nonferrous Mining Regulations, , which basically states that the applicant has the burden of establishing that the mining operation "reasonably minimizes actual or potential adverse impacts on air, water and other natural resources and meets the requirements of this act."
Casperson expressed that he was aware of the situation and did not seem concerned. He finally responded by saying, "Take them to court."
I tried to explain that the reverse osmosis treatment facility Kennecott Eagle Minerals Co. plans to use was never tested, so this is at least one violation of Section 63205. Then Huuki interceded and started to explain that the reverse osmosis system has been used in many mining facilities "all over the place." I had to correct him and tell him, "Not this system."
I received my information from the May 12, 2008, transcript of the contested case hearing, in which Dr. Glen Miller, a renowned expert in mine water treatment, testified that, "I do not know of another system of its type that has used all these different components together." And, "… there would need to be quite a bit more work before you can assume a system like this will work."
In my opinion, we have a representative who is highly influenced by a foreign-owned mining company and a senator who doesn't care if the law is followed.
So much for protecting our water for future generations.
-s- Richard Sloat
Iron River

Expansion needed
To the editor:
The proposed building project at the Iron County Medical Care Facility, which was featured in last week's Reporter, is in response to a definite need. This project fills a void in Iron County relative to the need for additional memory care beds, a distinct area for short-term rehab, and upgrading those areas of the building constructed in 1976.
As chair of the Iron County Human Services Board, I want to reiterate the comments made by Mr. Pintarelli that this proposed project has not been taken lightly. With more than 15 months of research, the need has been confirmed, and the financial analysis has substantiated the viability and feasibility of this project. This 15 months of research follows the 12-18 months of internal work done by the facility, which identified and substantiated the need. The bottom line is that we have Iron County residents leaving the county to receive services elsewhere due to our current

memory care unit being full to capacity, with a waiting list to get in. We have found this to be true with the short-term rehab, as well.

However, before this can be accomplished, we need the support and approval of our Iron County Board of Commissioners, since they are the owners of the buildings and property. With their support, the facility would be in a position to work with the Iron County Building Authority Board for financing of the project. It is important to realize that the cost of this project will be paid for by the Iron County Medical Care Facility through increased revenues generated as a result of increased occupancy.

This revenue will come from Medicare, Medicaid and an increase in the plant cost component of the facility's reimbursement. The proposed project will not be at the cost of the people of Iron County. The members of the Iron County Human Services Board believe that regardless of the status of the TIF litigation, the County Board needs to answer the question as to whether or not they stand behind the project. It is our goal to at least have some site work completed yet this fall, if at all possible.

As members of the community, if you stand behind this project, please contact your respective County Commissioner to express your support.

-s- Patti Peretto
Chairperson
Iron County Human
Services Board