

## ***Candidate for Michigan's 38th District Senate***

**Mike Carey**

**Iron Mountain, MI**

### ***What fuels me?***

I believe in the U.P. way... our rural family culture, our love and care for the outdoors, and the fact that you can still make a deal on a handshake. I am U.P. proud, as my ancestors have been for six generations before me.

Like many Yoopers, I grew up hunting, fishing, farming, logging, making maple syrup, and being one with the environment. There's nothing like being in nature as the forest awakens and seeing the frost glisten on birch bark, being greeted by a chickadee, hearing the whisper of the pines, or smelling the sweet fern on a misty morning.

Our lakes, natural springs, and timbered land are the envy of the world. Lying beneath our breathtaking landscape is one of the richest mineral reserves on the planet containing silver, copper, gold, and iron. We're truly blessed to live in God's country.

I love the U.P. and its people whom I consider my extended family, and I want them to continue calling the U.P. their home for generations to come.

### ***What concerns me?***

All that we love about our region is being threatened. There are big corporations and investors, some not even located in the United States, that want to buy up our beloved land and strip it of its precious resources. This almost became a reality at a regional mine where a foreign company wanted to bring in their own work force and ship everything out of the country, leaving us with the potential remnants of pollution and a permanently scarred terrain.

Another out-of-state company sadly succeeded in clear-cutting countless acres of hardwood timber, sending profits back to their investors and leaving us with a landscape barren of old timber and no plan for reforestation.

Also of great concern is the rapid disintegration of our close-knit communities. You likely know someone who longs to raise a family in the U.P., but left because they couldn't find work.

Mismanagement of our environment and the lack of good-paying jobs have a direct correlation. Unless we change our approach, we'll continue to harvest resources to the detriment of our planet, our economy, and our families.

### ***What do we need?***

We need responsible management of our natural resources to protect the magnificence of our skies, the beauty of our land, and the purity of our water. Too often, there has been an all-or-nothing approach from outside influences and lobbyists: completely strip our resources or do-not-touch.

Neither are a sustainable option and threaten the future of our families and forests. Instead, we need to create a new and *balanced* approach that responsibly manages our resources and provides employment opportunities, without compromising our values.

We need to create good and sustainable jobs to minimize "Yooper flight"— the exodus of our youth to pursue careers elsewhere, and so families who left to find employment can return home.

I strongly believe those who call the U.P. their beloved home are the ones who need to influence the decisions that impact it, not "big city" voters and special interests who have no understanding of the issues we face as a rural community.

### ***What is holding us back?***

Often, outside advocacy groups and government bureaucracy influence decisions that affect our state, and not always in the best interests of its citizens or ecosystem. Or, they create gridlock. While we still need to work with both sides for positive change, I believe a crucial third participant has been left out of the conversation. As has been true throughout history, movements are often birthed in our education systems.

When a political party or special interest group advocates for a cause, it is often met with skepticism or resistance by one side or the other.

When we can get academia on board to scientifically support and promote a balanced approach to sustainability, in general, the world listens. And acts.

It's the bridge that can bring both sides together for the common good.

In Michigan, we have some of the country's finest colleges and universities situated in the midst of a vast research facility – our great outdoors.

By advancing research and technology in our education systems, our students and teachers will lead the way in environmental sciences and best practices.

We can become known as the stewardship model of the world. The result will not only be sustainable environmental protection, but job creation for the U.P. in engineering, biology, mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism, geology, and other environmental sciences.

### ***What is my plan?***

We can safeguard our love of the outdoors, our family-focused culture, and our inherited responsibility of stewardship, all while achieving prosperity to sustain a quality of life that permanently preserves all we love about the U.P.

### ***Just some of the ways we can achieve this include:***

Advancing research, technology, and education through U.P. colleges and universities where students use the U.P.'s great outdoors as their classroom.

Providing hands-on education for foresters and mining engineers here at home and from abroad to benefit not only our environment, but that of other nations.

Teaching how to harvest resources so it benefits our water, air, forests, fish, wildlife, and mankind.

With proper planning, multiplying our current timber production and creating a healthier and more diverse ecosystem as a result.

Harvesting our minerals in environmentally friendly ways and teaching others how it is done through boutique mines that restore and preserve what remains.

Bolstering our tourism industry by showcasing our pristine environment, best practices, and educational systems.

Developing our ATV and snowmobile trails to further education, tourism, and forest fire protection.

Providing resource management incentives and increasing revenue growth to provide funding for local schools and community services, resulting in reduced property taxes.

### ***What now?***

This is not my job, nor your job... This is *our* job. Together, with your support and my 35 years experience in alternative energy and business management and 20 years experience in appointed government and non-profit board positions, we can make it happen.

You play an important role. Your advocacy and sphere of influence throughout the U.P. can help accomplish something meaningful, lasting, and good.

For my part, I plan on occupying Michigan's 38th District Senate seat soon to be vacated by Tom Casperson. There, with your help, I'll be able to represent you and your hopes and dreams for our great state. And I commit to upholding my values of family and faith, and bringing a level-headed approach to problem solving.

That's why I humbly ask you to support this vision with a substantial financial gift and with your vote. If these thoughts resonate deeply within you, please also use your influence as a like-minded leader so others can join us in making our shared vision a reality.

Together, let's create an industry of preservation and protection for our natural resources, restore prosperity, and create a culture where families will proudly call the U.P. their home for generations to come.

I hope you are as passionate about this place we call home as I am and that you will join me in protecting everything we love about this resource that has been entrusted to us by its Creator.