



The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
131 East Ridge Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855

April 9, 2021

To: Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior

We write this letter in solidarity with your efforts in opposing the plan to build an industrial vertical rocket launch site near the Lake Superior Coastline at Granot Loma in Marquette County.

We cannot support an endeavor that puts human lives and lives of many different species at risk. The environmental impact would be devastating and irreversible. But so would the spiritual impact. Nature is sacred; and we share these values with our Indigenous brothers and sisters the Anishinabek. This area of coastline is also where many of our congregants, our faith community U.P.Wild, our children, and we ourselves, come to connect with God in nature.

Should this project go forward destruction of wildlife habitat would be immense. The noise, air and light pollution should not be underestimated. The effects on ground water—to be drawn at a rate of tens of thousands of gallons of water per rocket launch—to an already delicate system, would be permanent.

A counter argument which indicates that many jobs would be created, is a weak one. It is up to those of us who revere this beautiful Lake Superior watershed, to call out that misperception. The balance is in favor of the water, the woods, and the wildlife. It must not tip towards an industrial for-profit rocket launch site.

As fellow citizens and neighbors, the Justice & Peace Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan stands with you in this urgent effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rayford J. Ray".

Rayford J. Ray, Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan