

How can U of M do fair mesothelioma study when so tied

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The Mesabi Daily News coverage of the sulfide mining legislative hearing brought up some good bits of information. It was troubling to hear how dependent the Minnesota University System is on mining revenue. This is the university system that is going to investigate the mesothelioma that is killing my fellow miners.

Earlier reports detailed the involvement of the Natural Resources Research Institute in the mesothelioma investigation. Anyone familiar with Iron Range politics knows that the NRRI is joined at the hip to the mining industry. It even has an endowed Taconite chair. Any hope for an unbiased investigation is getting dimmer by the day.

Our educational system, our politicians, and our media are so dominated by the mining industry that it's difficult not to regard them as lapdogs. They may talk about their devotion to the citizens of the Iron Range but when the chips are down you can count on them to bare their sharp little fangs and yip at anyone who criticizes their corporate masters.

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