

News From
Carl Levin

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Sen. Carl Levin Announces Quincy Smelter Community Open House

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., invites the public to attend the Quincy Smelter Community Open House in Hancock on Wednesday, July 29. The smelter, one of the last remaining intact copper smelting facilities in the world, is at a critical point in its preservation and restoration.

“I am proud of the work that has been accomplished by the community, the National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency to begin preserving this historical treasure, which helped power the country’s industrial revolution,” Levin said. “I look forward to the day when everyone will be able to visit the smelter and understand its significance in the copper mining history of this nation and its contribution to the growth of the country’s economy.”

The events will be hosted by the office of Sen. Carl Levin in cooperation with Franklin Township, the National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Visitors will have the opportunity to take guided tours of the smelter from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The tours are limited to 80 registrants who may RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on July 28 by calling (906) 482-0650. Visitors are also encouraged to attend the community open house from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Finnish American Heritage Center at 601 Quincy Street.

The smelter, which extracted copper from ore in a heating process, was built in the midst of the historic copper rush and operated from 1898 to 1971. Located on the Keweenaw Peninsula, it was a substantial component of the Quincy Mining Company operations, one of the largest and most productive of the copper producing companies. Made up of 28 buildings across 25 acres, it is likely the best remaining example of a copper smelter site in the world, according to the Industrial Archaeology program at Michigan Technological University.

The smelter, though owned by the Franklin Township, is located within the boundaries of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. It has endured many years of neglect and has suffered structural, environmental and vandalism damages.

Levin has been active for years in securing funding and building partnerships to restore the smelter. Last summer the EPA spent nearly \$300,000 to stabilize structures and remove asbestos.

At Levin's request, the U.S. Congress approved a \$285,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2009 and this year the Senate Appropriations Committee included \$1 million in the interior appropriations bill that he requested for the smelter.

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