

October 6, 2023

Governor Tim Walz  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

The Mesabi Tribune newspaper published a piece on September 28 regarding your visit to Hibbing and Chisholm to “highlight state investments on the Iron Range”. “This year we’ve invested millions in the safety and economic vitality of communities like the Range”, you were quoted as saying.

Millions of dollars in state funded projects are slated to be constructed across the Iron Range and Northern Minnesota under the \$2.6 billion infrastructure bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2023 session. At least 26 Iron Range and other northern Minnesota projects were approved in the final bonding bill including water and sewer projects, public safety centers, wellness centers, community centers and other projects.

Kudos go out to those local governmental authorities and community leaders for arranging to receive at least \$116 million dollars of tax payer’s moneys to fund badly needed projects in our region.

“By supporting business expansion projects and funding local public safety departments, we’re creating good-paying, family-sustaining jobs and building strong communities across the state”, you were quoted as saying. The expansion of Detroit Diesel Remanufacturing is expected to create 18 new jobs and it is likely that additional jobs will be created as a result of the more than \$116 million dollars to fund such projects. Yet, that being said, many good-paying, family-sustaining jobs would be created by several shovel-ready projects proposed by private enterprise companies and neither are asking for the state to provide them with so much as one dollar of tax-payers money to complete their proposed projects. I’m referring of course to Twin Metals’ proposed copper-nickel underground mine to be located near Babbitt and PolyMet/Teck’s proposed copper-nickel mine to be located near Hoyt Lakes.

Twin Metals Minnesota has invested at least \$550 million dollars in their project. Construction will generate several million union labor hours in the \$1.7-billion-dollar construction project and create 750 direct jobs and 1,500 spinoff jobs.

PolyMet's proposed NorthMet copper-nickel mining project is a \$1.0-billion-dollar project, that when operational will create 360 well-paying mining jobs and perhaps another 650 jobs in companies and businesses in related industries.

Both mining projects have been opposed by environmental activists – the Twin Metals' project by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness in collaboration with the Minneapolis Star Tribune and PolyMets mining project by Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

The enclosed letter dated July/August 2023 has been signed by more than 250 Northeastern Minnesotans, respectfully asking you to support legislation to reform our grossly inefficient regulatory processes so that science, not politics, will prevail. It also asks you to use your office to advocate for northeastern Minnesota in Washington, D.C.

Lastly, enclosed, are Petitions containing thousands of signatures of northeastern Minnesotans and others, requesting that you, Interior Secretary Debra Haaland, former Secretary of Agriculture Perdue and former Interior Secretary Zinke, all support Twin Metals' proposed mining project.

Sincerely,

*Gerald M. Tyler*

Gerald M. Tyler