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August 15, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue:

Up North Jobs Inc. is an Ely, Minnesota based nonprofit membership organization incorporated in 2013 to promote economic development and job growth in Northeastern Minnesota. We are members of Jobs For Minnesotans, a state wide organization committed to advancing the goal of job creation and investment in Minnesota by responsible industries. Both of our organizations are comprised of members and supporters that represent Minnesota businesses, labor organizations and thousands of Minnesota residents.

Up North Jobs has been prominently involved and especially active in the effort to create jobs in the mining industry, actively supporting Polymet's NorthMet proposed mining project located near Hoyt Lakes, MN and Twin Metals Minnesota's proposed copper-nickel mining project located near Ely, MN.

On January 13, 2017 the U. S. Forest Service submitted an application to then Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to withdraw, for a 20-year term, 234,328 acres of Forest Service lands from "disposition" under U. S. mineral leasing laws and provided a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement that is not expected to be completed until January 2019.

The attached Memorandum is offered in opposition to the aforementioned decision of the U. S. Forest Service to withdraw the National Forest System lands and its refusal to renew two leases of federal mineral lands held by Twin Metals Minnesota. We respectfully ask that you act to rescind the *Application for Withdrawal* of the 234,328 acres of Forest System Lands from "disposition" and renew Twin Metal Minnesota's two mineral leases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Tyler", written over a horizontal line.

Gerald M. Tyler,
Chairman, President & CEO

Attachment

Cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Al Franken
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Rick Nolan
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Tom Emmer
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515