



The Honorable Rick Nolan
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2017

Dear Congressman Nolan:

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has expressed support of PolyMet Mining in Hoyt Lakes, MN through resolutions of support for both the NorthMet project and mining exploration.

Today I write in support of H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017. This act is a critical next step in keeping the NorthMet project moving forward. We understand the enactment of the bill will not authorize any mining to occur, but passage and a timely resolution of the exchange opens a crucial door for the prospect of a new generation of good-paying direct mining jobs in northeast Minnesota.

A comprehensive environmental review of the NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange was completed nearly two years ago by the appropriate state and federal agencies. The Final Environmental Impact Statement subsequently was validated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2016 and by the U.S. Forest Service in its January 2017 Final Record of Decision (ROD), but the land exchange is still not done.

PolyMet's NorthMet project will need two million hours of construction labor and employ 360 people in our region. PolyMet's project would also provide essential, strategic minerals and utilize modern technology through operating practices that protect our air and water quality. The job growth and tax revenue would have a significant impact on our region's employers and our economy – estimated at \$515 million annually just in St. Louis County.

Congressman Nolan, thank you for the leadership in putting this bill forward. Bringing closure and certainty to this process through Congressional action and rapid passage of the enabling legislation through the U.S. Congress would help PolyMet move through the necessary permitting phase and into construction.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance in moving this matter forward. I can be reached at 218-722-5501.

Sincerely,

David Ross
President and CEO

CC: Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Al Franken
Via email: Will.Mitchell@mail.house.gov