

# Iron Range Building & Construction Trades Council

Phone: 218-741-2482

Business Office: 107 South 15th Ave. West  
Virginia, Minnesota 55792-3496

FAX: 218-741-2493

July 12, 2017

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

Dear Congressman Nolan:

Iron Range Building and Construction Trades Council write in full support of H.R. 3115. It is time to bring the land exchange process to a close. As the U.S. Forest Service stated in their January Record of Decision "This decision best serves the public's interest." Our Iron Range Building trade members and our local area cannot afford to wait longer for the construction and mining jobs.

PolyMet's proposed project would require approximately 2,000,000 hours of construction labor and will directly employ 360 people in an economically depressed area. Our members live here and want to work here. The job growth and tax revenue would have a significant benefit on our region's economy, over \$500 million annually in St. Louis County alone.

Anti-mining activists will never be satisfied until we no longer mine critical and strategic metals in Minnesota. We thank you for your leadership on this bill to move the land exchange part of the PolyMet project to a close.

This exchange and the bill itself are a net benefit to northeastern Minnesota and our members who live and recreate on public lands. The lands that the U.S. Forest Service will acquire have more wetlands, lake frontage and will be easily accessible. The U.S. Forest Service will be exchanging federal lands adjacent to intensively mined private lands with little or no public access.

Thank you and your colleagues for your efforts to bring swift closure to this process through Congressional action. We strongly urge bipartisan support for and rapid passage of the enabling legislation through the U.S. Congress.

Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help move this forward. I can be reached directly at 612-325-3614.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Syversrud", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Syversrud  
President

CC:

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Senator Al Franken

Congressman Emmer

Congressman Peterson

Congressman Lewis

Congressman Walz

Via email: [Will.Mitchell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Will.Mitchell@mail.house.gov)