

## Resolution in Support of Nonferrous Mining in St. Louis County

By Commissioner Nelson

WHEREAS, nonferrous ores contain metals used in daily life - copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold – and found in countless products, including cell phones, computers, joint replacements, electrical wiring, hybrid cars and catalytic converters; and

WHEREAS, the United States does not meet its domestic demand for these valuable metals, importing from 40% to 95% of the metals it uses, often from countries with little or no environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS, pollution from unregulated mines joins a global pool that deposits contaminants around the world, including in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, current nonferrous mining operations planned for St. Louis County must meet strict state and federal laws to protect human health and the environment, including the preparation and regular updating of detailed closure plans designated to pay for closure and associated environmental cleanup/mitigation, along with financial resources designated to pay for such closure; and

WHEREAS, The University of Minnesota Duluth Campus, Labovitz School of Economics had indicated that the evolution of nonferrous mining in the region has the potential to provide thousands of construction and skilled trades related jobs and thousands more stable private sector jobs, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic benefits to the region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners declares its support for the existing open, transparent, and comprehensive environmental review and permitting process in place for the various nonferrous mining initiatives currently planned for development in St. Louis County, Minnesota, and supports the success of these projects, contingent upon the approval of all federal and state environmental permits necessary for these projects to move forward.