



February 21, 2014

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Lisa Fay, EIS Project Manager
MDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Dear Ms. Fay:

The Board of Directors of the Richfield Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our members, would like to express our full support for approval of the PolyMet Northmet project in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota. The RCOC works hard to promote economic development opportunities that will have positive effects for its members and for the good of all Minnesota businesses. The Northmet mining project is such an opportunity that our Chamber is proud to support.

Minnesota has a proud mining tradition that has created thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity for our residents. The Northmet project is a vital continuation of that heritage and will provide positive impacts not only for Northeastern Minnesota, but across the state as well.

Minnesota has a proven record of applying innovative approaches to mineral extraction. Our mining history has provided regulatory agencies with the expertise to vigilantly protect Northern Minnesota's precious and fragile natural splendors by enforcing some of the toughest mining regulations in the world. We understand the apprehension of some that this project will have consequences for the environment, but the rapid advances in technology and methods used in mining mitigate these risks. We have confidence that our state agencies have both the expertise and capacity necessary to ensure those consequences are mitigated.

This Chamber serves as gateway for our members to create and provide economic development essential to our community. We seek and support economic development opportunities for our members, which in turn creates opportunities for our residents. The Northmet project is another such opportunity with transformative potential for the region and state.

We urge the DNR to grant permission to PolyMet to build this mine confident that the DNR will adhere to the highest environmental standards necessary to protect Northern Minnesota's natural beauty and be strict in its oversight of Polymet's operation.

Sincerely,

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors