



Resolution No. 7-14

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR POLYMET

WHEREAS, PolyMet plans to invest \$475 million in its proposed NorthMet Project, a project that will provide a domestic supply of critical metals needed in products and processes essential to daily life and, in doing so, will create over 300 jobs and generate tax revenues that will benefit regional and statewide economic growth and development, and

WHEREAS, the NorthMet project has been designed to reuse a brownfield site and existing mine infrastructure, minimizing disturbance of wetlands and utilizing multiple safeguards to protect the environment, and

WHEREAS, with regard to PolyMet, we trust that in releasing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources working in tandem with other state and federal agencies, has determined that the NorthMet Project meets their rigorous review process and state and federal environmental protection standards, and

WHEREAS, the Port of Duluth-Superior, the largest tonnage port on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system, began well over a century ago as a natural resources port and continues today to move primarily bulk commodities extracted from nature including among others: iron ore, coal, limestone, cement and salt, and further diversifying our cargo-handling capacity is key to expanding our global competitiveness, and

WHEREAS, the vitality of this entire region depends on the strength of the Port, and the Port relies on the strength of the industries it serves; and the Port's road and rail connections to Minnesota mining operations already account for nearly 45% of the tonnage that moves through this Port, which taken in total helps support 11,500 jobs and contributes over \$1.5 billion to the regional economy, and

WHEREAS, the startup of the proposed NorthMet Project opens up the potential for handling *new* cargoes through the multi-modal Port of Duluth-Superior, which leverages additional opportunities for domestic and international trade, and

WHEREAS, when the Minnesota state legislature established the Duluth Seaway Port Authority in 1955, charging the organization with the responsibility of fostering regional maritime commerce, promoting trade development, advocating for maritime interests, and facilitating industrial development in this region, and

WHEREAS, for nearly 60 years, the Duluth Seaway Port Authority has worked with several Minnesota agencies to achieve these goals – particularly those responsible for protecting the state’s air, land and water resources (Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) – and we know firsthand how thoroughly and stringently those agencies conduct environmental assessments as part of the permitting process for new construction and brownfield remediation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

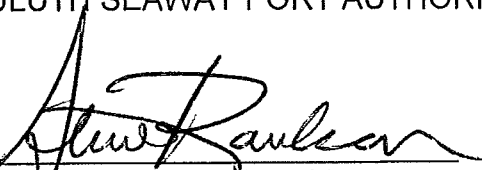
The Duluth Seaway Port Authority Board of Commissioners hereby offers this Resolution of Support for PolyMet Mining Corp. and the adequacy of the NorthMet Project SDEIS; supports the project moving to the next phase of environmental permitting; and commits to continue its efforts to support mining in northeastern Minnesota, value-added manufacturing, and opportunities for multi-modal cargo handling through the Port of Duluth-Superior.

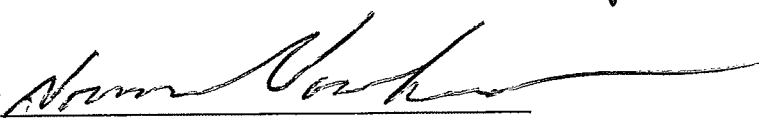
ADOPTED: February 27, 2014

DULUTH SEAWAY PORT AUTHORITY

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

By 
Steve Raukar, President

By 
Norm Voorhees, Secretary