



November 27, 2017

Congressman Tom Emmer
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via electronic delivery

Dear Congressman Emmer,

As elected leaders of the Minnesota Legislature, we are writing in strong support of H.R. 3905. This legislation supports jobs, economic development and industry in Northeast Minnesota, and will reverse an onerous, overreaching and politically-motivated decision by the Obama Administration that withdrew nearly 240,000 acres of federal lands and minerals from potential development. H.R. 3905 will halt these last-minute land withdrawals, reinstate leases affected by that decision including the Twin Metals' lease, and require congressional approval for any future withdrawal actions.

The decision by the Obama Administration last January put jobs and nearly \$2.5 billion of our state's economy at risk. Furthermore, it risked the depression of the precious metals, technology, infrastructure and manufacturing industries in our state, and the economic well-being of Northeast Minnesota—a region where mining has been an economic anchor since the late nineteenth century. And that's not to mention the estimated four billion ton deposit of copper, nickel, and other strategic minerals located within the Duluth Complex which could generate as much as \$3 billion in royalty revenues for the state's Permanent School Trust Fund—resources that would support education for nearly 900,000 K-12 students across the state.

H.R. 3905 also reaffirms our shared commitment to the protection of our environment and support of a thorough and proper environmental review process for the mineral leases, as well as upholds our state's commitment to restricting mineral development in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Mine Protection Area.

The expansion of the precious metals mining industry offers generations of Minnesotans thousands of good-paying jobs, billions of dollars in investment in industry, and billions of dollars in revenue for Minnesota schools. Moreover, it provides an incredible opportunity to further establish our nation's economic and energy independence from foreign nations. The decision to remove vast amounts of federal land from potential development and blocking the Twin Metals' federal mineral lease renewal was short-sighted and damaging. H.R. 3905 has our

bipartisan support, and it is our sincere hope that it will become law for the well-being of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House



Sen. Paul Gazelka
Majority Leader



Rep. Joyce Peppin
Majority Leader



Sen. Tom Bakk
Senate District 3



Rep. Dan Fabian
Environment Committee Chair
House District 1A



Rep. Chris Swedzinski
Mining and Outdoor Recreation Chair
House District 16A



Sen. Bill Ingebrigtesen
Environment Committee Chair
Senate District 8



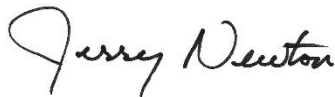
Sen. David Tomassoni
Environment Committee Ranking Member
Senate District 6



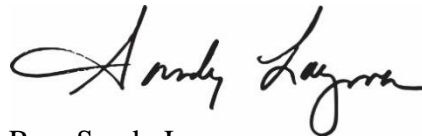
Rep. Pat Garofalo
Jobs and Energy Committee Chair
House District 58B



Rep. Rob Ecklund
Assistant Minority Leader
House District 3A



Sen. Jerry Newton
Senate District 37
Legislative School Trust Commission



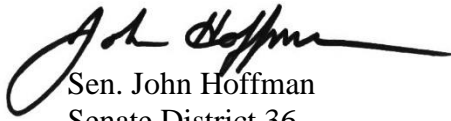
Rep. Sandy Layman
House District 5B
Legislative School Trust Commission



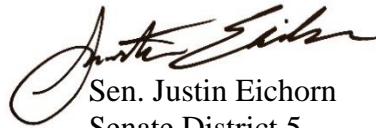
Rep. Julie Sandstede
House District 6A
Legislative School Trust Commission



Rep. Dale Lueck
House District 10B
Legislative School Trust Commission



Sen. John Hoffman
Senate District 36
Legislative School Trust Commission



Sen. Justin Eichorn
Senate District 5
Legislative School Trust Commission



Rep. Brian Daniels
House District 24B




Rep. Jim Nash
House District 47A



Rep. Brian Johnson
House District 32A



Rep. Jason Rarick
House District 11B



Rep. Rod Hamilton
House District 22B



Rep. Mary Franson
House District 8B



Rep. Sondra Erickson
House District 15A



Rep. Jon Koznick
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Rep. Bob Gunther
House District



Rep. Paul Torkelson
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House District 21B



Rep. Tony Albright
House District 55B



Rep. Bob Dettmer
House District 39A



Rep. Josh Heintzeman
House District 10A



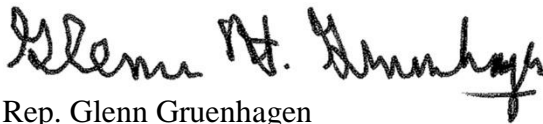
Rep. Kathy Lohmer
House District 39B



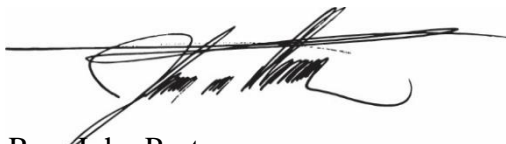
Rep. Linda Runbeck
House District 38A



Rep. Bob Loonan
House District 55A



Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen
House District 18B



Rep. John Poston
House District 9A



Rep. Cal Bahr
House District 31B



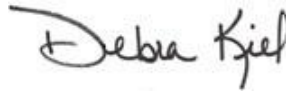
Rep. Cindy Pugh
House District 33B



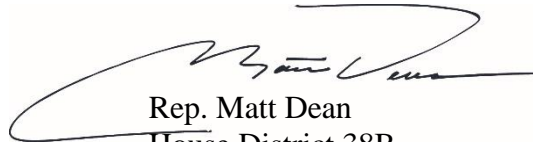
Rep. Roz Peterson
House District 56B



Rep. Barb Haley
House District 21A



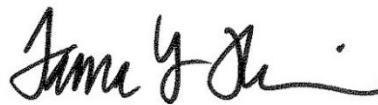
Rep. Deb Kiel
House District 1B



Rep. Matt Dean
House District 38B



Rep. Dean Urdahl
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Rep. Tama Theis
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Rep. Steve Green
House District 2B



Rep. Matt Bliss
House District



Rep. Tim Miller
House District 17A



Rep. Mike Sundin
House District 11A



Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein
House District 41B
Legislative School Trust Commission



Rep. Dave Baker
House District 17B



Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer
Senate District 30



Sen. Mark Johnson
Senate District 1



Sen. Jerry Relph
Senate District 14



Sen. Paul Utke 2
Senate District