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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Pete Stauber
145 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stauber:

I am writing today on behalf of Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition co-founded by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and strengthened by labor unions, community leaders and business members from across the state. We represent 70,000 union workers, 6,300 companies and 500,000 employees in Minnesota.

Our coalition is in strong support of H.R. 209 the Permitting for Mining Needs Act (PERMIT MN). As a coalition, we have consistently advocated for a fair regulatory process – fair to the public, the government agencies and investors alike. The three pillars of a fair process include transparency, predictability and timeliness. Without any of these, the regulatory process loses credibility and fairness for projects being reviewed in our state and in our country.

In the more than 10 years since we've been advocating for federal and state agencies to uphold the regulatory process outlined in law and to advance the review of a proposed mine plan in a timely and fair manner. Moreover, mining in our region has been used as a high-stakes political game with a mining moratorium and the unjustified pulling of minerals leases.

As we've seen, agencies have the power to slow the advancement of the regulatory process for proposed mining projects. Sometimes, with a lack of any other rational justification, these tactics appear to be politically motivated. If approved through the existing, thorough, science-based review and permitting processes, these important projects could bring thousands of jobs to our communities and minerals independence to our country.

We have watched several mining project proposal timelines get extended time after time, delaying review and creating an unpredictable regulatory environment. The impact on investment in our state is chilling. This is particularly harmful in greater Minnesota, where new investment is desperately needed.

The review process should be taken seriously and not used as a partisan political football where the advancement of the review only moves forward dependent on which party holds office.

It's clear that the public deserves more transparency on both the proposer and regulator sides for our process in this country to be fair. We need set parameters for transparency and predictability, with timeliness a keystone of our regulatory framework.

It is paramount for the U.S. to have access to a secure, domestic source of metals, especially nickel and cobalt – critical to U.S. manufacturing, infrastructure and clean energy and battery storage technology. Mining has been the lifeblood of northeast Minnesota for over 130 years, supporting workers and communities with safe, family-sustaining jobs. It has existed in harmony with our other core industries of forest products, transportation, health care, education and tourism. Additionally, it has existed

JOBS FOR MINNESOTANS



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all while protecting the environment. We need to allow mining investors the opportunity to prove they can both safely mine for minerals AND protect the surrounding environment. This Act will go a long way in helping to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

David Chura
Board Chair
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Suite 1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jobs for Minnesotans, a coalition representing business, labor and communities, supports statewide opportunities for prosperity and middle-class jobs from sustainable natural resource development in Minnesota. The organization is committed to the principle that our state can preserve both job opportunities and the environment for future generations. Jobs for Minnesotans was co-founded in 2012 by the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council representing 70,000 workers and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing 2,300 companies and 500,000 employees.