

**From:** [Bonnie, Robert - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [TJV](#)  
**Cc:** [Batta, Todd - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [CAUTION: Suspicious Link]Fwd: Statement on Democrats Killing Twin Metals Project  
**Date:** Friday, December 16, 2016 12:03:27 PM

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Mr. Secretary:

We will work on responses to this for you. I don't know about the letter she is referring to, but we'll find out. Thanks,

Robert

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tom Vilsack [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** December 16, 2016 at 10:49:22 AM CST  
**To:** Todd Batta <[Todd.Batta@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Todd.Batta@osec.usda.gov)>, Bonnie Robert <[Robert.Bonnie@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Bonnie@osec.usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** [CAUTION: Suspicious Link]Fwd: Statement on Democrats Killing Twin Metals Project

**PROCEED WITH CAUTION:** This message triggered warnings of **potentially** malicious web content. Evaluate this email by considering whether you are expecting the message, along with inspection for suspicious links.

Questions: [Spam.Abuse@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Spam.Abuse@wdc.usda.gov)

Todd and Robert - as expected one unhappy US Senator. Not sure what questions she has asked that have not been answered but if they are from our shop we need to respond to them if we can. I will send you my response.

TV

Sent via iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Amy Klobuchar [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** December 16, 2016 at 8:19:16 AM CST  
**To:** Tom Vilsack [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Statement on Democrats Killing Twin Metals Project

Tom

I have always believed in you and what you stand for and will continue to do that but this just floored me.

Trump will reverse this. When you guys leave and are out talking about a job message for rural America, I will be left with the mess and dealing with the actual jobs. But you guys sure got a good story in the New York Times.

It should have been handled through the normal process. It wasn't. I still don't have answers to my questions. I asked them in writing in July. I will now ask them of the trump administration....which is ironic because the most likely reason I did not get answers to my questions is why we have the trump administration to begin with. Who cares about answering some pesky questions from a woman senator from the Midwest when you guys and the White House and the activists have all the politics down, right?  
Amy

I repeatedly expressed concerns about using this lease denial process after they had had the leases for years. Sally Jewell actually said publicly what would happen before comments were even submitted and deliberations made. Oops. It will now end up in a lawsuit and everyone will raise money off of it and do attack ads based on it on both sides. Somehow trump will reverse the decision or a court will. That will be the outcome of this big announcement.

I truly believe a thorough EPA review would have told us if it is safe or not, but other considerations ruled. I am not for or against this project but I just wanted a fair process based on science that told us the truth. That is not how this feels.

Amy

Release: RPM Releases Statement on  
Democrats Killing Twin Metals Project

## **Press Release: RPM Releases Statement**

## on Democrats Killing Twin Metals Project

(Minneapolis, Minn.) – The Republican Party of Minnesota Chairman Keith Downey released the following statement regarding the Obama Administration's [recent move to kill the Twin Metal mining project](#) and effectively end mining in the Iron Range by prohibiting all future leases.

“In a cruel attack on Iron Range families right before Christmas, Democrats effectively killed the Twin Metals’ mining project today and likely all future mining with an order from the Obama administration. The Democrats’ cynical and pathetic show of rejecting the “kill mining” Resolution 54 at their State Central Committee meeting last Saturday is the absolute worst of politics. Shamefully, Mark Dayton, Rick Nolan and Amy Klobuchar claim to support mining, all the while they must have known that this order was coming. It is no coincidence that this order effectively accomplishes the intentions of Resolution 54. The order requires that equipment must be removed from the site and all activity shut down. We’ll say it again, watch what Democrats do, not what they say, when it comes to killing mining and destroying the economy of Northeastern Minnesota.”

