



January 19, 2026

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Stephanie Handeland
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Handeland,

I write today on behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), a statewide organization representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than 500,000 employees throughout Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration of the draft wastewater permit for the Mesabi Metallica project in Nashwauk.

Mesabi Metallica will be the first new mine in about four decades in Minnesota. The project is a unique opportunity, including immediate job creation and significant economic growth as a result of long-term private investment. Once permitted, Mesabi Metallica will provide hundreds of high-quality jobs, support the local business economy, provide tens of millions of tax benefits to the region, and contribute to growth throughout the Iron Range.

The company currently employs more than 80 full-time positions, which swells to 350 when Mesabi Metallica becomes operational. There are currently about 600 construction workers on-site every day. Further, the company has a significant community outreach program, including hosting the Chamber's Leaders Lab program earlier this year.

With continued community support and partnership with state agencies, Mesabi Metallica will operate responsibly, aligning with Iron Range values and contributing to Minnesota's economic growth.

Minnesota's mineral wealth is world-class. Mesabi Metallica is a unique opportunity to continue tapping that mineral wealth while simultaneously being one of the few large economic development projects investing in Minnesota in recent years.

Thank you for your consideration of the draft wastewater permit for Mesabi Metallica. The Chamber of Commerce supports the project and the benefits it will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "C. J. M.", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrew Morley
Director, Environmental Policy
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
amorley@mnchamber.com
763-221-7523