



**Range Association of
Municipalities and Schools**

5525 Emerald Avenue

Mt. Iron, MN 55768

rams@ramsmn.org • 218.748.7651

January 22, 2026

Commissioner Katrina Kessler
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd N, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Mesabi Metallica's Draft Wastewater Permit

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

On behalf of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), we write to express our strong support for Mesabi Metallica Company LLC wastewater water quality permit as it advances through the state's environmental and operational permitting process.

For decades, RAMS has represented the collective voice of Iron Range communities, schools and local governments committed to promoting sustainable economic development across northeastern Minnesota. The Mesabi Metallica project in Nashwauk represents a generational opportunity to restore jobs, strengthen regional infrastructure, revitalize the heart of Minnesota's mining economy while upholding the highest standards of environmental stewardship, expand the regional tax base and provide long-term stability for local schools and municipalities—key priorities for our members.

We believe Mesabi Metallica has demonstrated a clear commitment to responsible mining, environmental compliance and community partnership. In our view, Mesabi Metallica has earned the confidence of the Range through its actions and its willingness to engage openly with all stakeholders. The company has worked transparently with local officials, community members, tribal representatives and state regulators, reflecting both the spirit and intent of Minnesota's permitting process. Their investments in modern equipment, water management systems and emission controls set a strong foundation for a safe and sustainable operation that aligns with the values of Iron Range communities.

RAMS respectfully urges state agencies to move forward with timely approval of Mesabi Metallica's permits so this important project can continue to advance. The Iron Range's future depends on thoughtful progress—balancing environmental responsibility with economic opportunity—and Mesabi Metallica exemplifies that balance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people and communities of northern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Paul Peltier
Executive Director

Barb Kalmi
President, Board of Directors

