

LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota (Joel Smith)

February 2, 2026

Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency,

On behalf of more than 14,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Minnesota and North Dakota, I am writing to urge your swift approval of Mesabi Metallica's air quality and wastewater permits.

We are strong supporters of the Mesabi Metallica taconite mine and taconite pellet production facility on the site of the former Butler Taconite Mining Company facility near Nashwauk. Permit approval will keep Minnesota on track to make an important contribution to the fight against climate change by advancing this highly innovative "Green Steel" project that significantly reduces carbon emissions compared to traditional steelmaking processes.

Mesabi Metallica has already put hundreds of LIUNA members to work and will create family-supporting careers for Laborers and other Building Trades, in addition to community-supporting jobs at schools, hospitals, public and private sector employers on the Iron Range.

Mining is the largest and most direct source of employment for LIUNA members who live and work in northern Minnesota. LIUNA members work approximately 850,000 job hours directly or indirectly on mining projects annually. Our members build mining facilities, expansions and rebuilds, mine infrastructure including roads, water infrastructure, and tailings ponds, and our members perform ongoing maintenance, including cleaning, demolition and general maintenance at the mines.

We have been mining in Minnesota for more than 130 years. Mining projects such as Mesabi Metallica will ensure we continue to mine for generations to come. We hope you will swiftly approve Mesabi Metallica's air quality and wastewater permits.

Thank you for your work to protect the environment and health of Minnesotans and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Joel Smith
President and Business Manager

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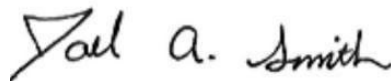
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