

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 (John Pollard)

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, representing over 15,000 members, I write to express our strong support for Mesabi Metallics and urge your approval of its permits in Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Approximately 600 Minnesota union workers are on site at Mesabi working on the project. As permits are approved the numbers of union construction workers on site will increase by the hundreds. Once operational, union contractors will continue to work onsite on special projects and maintenance.

These skilled jobs provide family sustaining wages, health benefits, and pensions that allow our members to retire with dignity. Across the Iron Range, highly trained union tradespeople are building the future of our region with skill, safety and pride. These jobs cannot be outsourced, and they contribute directly to the strength of our local economy.

We respectfully request you to approve Mesabi Metallics' permit, ensuring continued progress, union jobs and long-term opportunity for the tradespeople who build and power our region.