

Barbara Kalmi

To:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

C/O Stephanie Handeland

520 Lafayette Rd N, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Mesabi Metallics' Permit Amendments

Dear Commissioner Katrina Kessler,

I, the undersigned, a locally elected official of Minnesota's Iron Range, write in favor of Mesabi Metallics and urge your swift approval of the company's permits for the project located in Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Mesabi Metallics represents an abundant opportunity to our communities, not only in terms of immediate economic growth and job creation but also long-term investment into our region. With its permits to operate, Mesabi Metallics will provide hundreds of high-quality jobs, support our local business economy, provide approximately \$30 million in tax benefits to our region and power the Iron Range's economy in a substantial way.

Mesabi Metallics has proved itself to be a responsible, trusted business on the Iron Range. The company currently employs more than 80 full-time positions, a number that will grow to 350 as the company becomes operational and has approximately 600 construction workers on site every day. We attest that the company has provided substantial community outreach efforts, including more than 30 town hall events and multiple open house events for any member of the public to tour the facilities, observe construction progress, and ask questions.

I believe that with continued community and partnership with state agencies, Mesabi Metallics will operate in a responsible way that aligns with both our communities' goals and the goals of the State to lead our nation's green economy.

I respectfully encourage you to approve this permit.

Barbara Kalmi

ISD319 Nashwauk Keewatin Public Schools

Vice Chair

