

ISD 319 Nashwauk Keewatin School Board (Dr. Rae Villebrun)

To:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

C/O Stephanie Handeland

520 Lafayette Rd N, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Mesabi Metallica's Permit Amendments

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

We, the undersigned locally elected officials of Minnesota's Iron Range, write in favor of Mesabi Metallica and urge your swift approval of the company's permits for the project located in Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Mesabi Metallica 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 Metallica 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 Metallica 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.

We believe that with continued community and partnership with state agencies, Mesabi Metallica 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.

We respectfully encourage you to approve this permit.

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