

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (April Arnason)



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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Mesabi Metallica's Permit Amendments

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the hundreds of businesses we represent across Itasca County and Iron Range region, I write in support of Mesabi Metallica and respectfully urge approval of the company's permits for the project located in Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Mesabi Metallica represents a significant opportunity for our regional economy - not only in immediate job creation and tax base growth, but also in the long-term stability and diversification of our business community. With its permit to operate, Mesabi Metallica is projected to provide hundreds of high-quality, sustainable jobs, support a wide range of local vendors and service providers, contribute substantially to tax benefits, and meaningfully strengthen our local economy.

We have observed Mesabi Metallica demonstrate a commitment to being a responsible and engaged corporate citizen. The company currently employs more than 80 full-time employees, a number that is expected to grow to approximately 350 as operations begin, and supports an estimated 600 construction workers on site each day. These numbers represent real families, small businesses, nonprofits, and communities who depend on a healthy, functioning regional economy.

We also recognize and appreciate what Mesabi Metallica has undertaken to ensure transparency and public engagement. They have hosted more than 30 town hall meetings and multiple open house events, inviting residents, local leaders, and stakeholders to tour the facilities, observe construction, ask questions, and raise concerns. This level of outreach is an important indicator of the company's willingness to partner with local communities and state agencies alike.

We believe that, with continued collaboration between Mesabi Metallica, local governments, tribal nations, state regulators, and community stakeholders, this project can move forward in a way that is both environmentally responsible and economically impactful.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to approve Mesabi Metallica's permit amendments and allow this project to move forward. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people and natural resources of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

April Arnason, President & CEO
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce