



January 14, 2026

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

Dear MPCA Leadership and Review Staff,

On behalf of the City of Hibbing, I am writing to express our support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's continued review and permitting of the Mesabi Metallica project. While neither I nor a city representative are able to attend the January 14 public meeting due to a previously scheduled City Council and leadership strategic planning session, it is important that the City's position be clearly stated and included in the public record.

Mining has shaped Hibbing and the Iron Range for more than a century. It is foundational to our economy, our workforce, and our identity as a community. Projects such as Mesabi Metallica represent not only a continuation of that legacy, but a modern evolution of it — one that aligns responsible environmental stewardship with economic opportunity.

The Mesabi Metallica project has the potential to create significant direct and indirect employment, provide long-term economic stability, and strengthen local and regional supply chains. At a time when rural communities across Minnesota are working to retain residents, attract families, and sustain essential services, responsible industrial investment is critical. The anticipated jobs, tax base growth, and associated business activity would have meaningful positive impacts for Hibbing and the broader Iron Range.

We also recognize that members of the public have raised important questions related to air quality, water protection, and tailings basin safety. These concerns deserve careful consideration and transparency. The City of Hibbing supports a thorough, science-based permitting process that evaluates these issues rigorously and holds projects to Minnesota's high environmental and safety standards. Public trust depends on strong oversight, ongoing monitoring, and accountability, all of which are central to the MPCA's role, including continued compliance review and post-permit monitoring throughout the life of the project.

Hibbing's history is inseparable from mining, and our future remains closely tied to whether mining can continue responsibly, competitively, and sustainably. The Mesabi Metallica project offers hope that mining on the Range can endure for future generations — providing good-paying jobs, supporting families, and reinforcing the communities that have long powered Minnesota's economy.

Thank you for your work, your diligence, and your consideration of the voices of Iron Range communities throughout this process. Please accept this letter as the City of Hibbing's formal statement of support for the permitting efforts related to Mesabi Metallica.

Sincerely,

Pete Hyduke
Mayor, City of Hibbing