



July 10, 2013

The Honorable Rep. Rick Nolan
2447 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nolan:

Twin Metals Minnesota strongly supports the “National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013 (H.R. 761) sponsored by Congressman Amodei. We urge your support when the bill comes to the House floor later this week. H.R. 761 would improve and streamline the environmental review and federal permitting system for developing domestic sources of critical minerals needed to support the U.S. economy, create jobs and generate tax revenue from expanded economic activity – all while maintaining the nation’s strong environmental protection standards.

As you know, Twin Metals Minnesota is pursuing the development and operation of copper, nickel, platinum, palladium and gold (strategic metals) mining project in northeastern Minnesota, bringing the promise of significant long term jobs and economic development to the region and the state. Twin Metals Minnesota is currently in the Prefeasibility Study (PFS) phase of project development, an effort that will identify critical project details – environmental protection strategies, facility siting, mineral processing, anticipated length of environmental review and permitting, and other important issues. The final PFS, expected to be complete in early 2014, will form the foundation of a detailed mine plan that will face rigorous and thorough environmental review by multiple state and federal agencies.

For Minnesota’s mining industry, and the Twin Metals Minnesota project specifically, H.R. 761 would be another important step towards bringing greater certainty and efficiency to the mine development and regulatory process. H.R. 761 would be a strong compliment to two pieces of bipartisan legislation approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2011 and 2012 to streamline the state’s environmental review and permitting processes. Indeed, upon signing the legislation passed in 2011, DFL Governor Mark Dayton said the bill would ensure that permitting agencies, “move at the speed of commerce by accelerating and simplifying their environmental review and permitting processes.”

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Cong. R. Nolan: TMM Support for H.R. 761

H.R. 761 is also important to our nation's economy, our standard of living and national security. Reliable domestic sources of critical minerals will be vital to the long-term success of a significant number of domestic industries including energy infrastructure, electrical power generation, renewable energy production, manufacturing, agriculture, housing, telecommunications, health care and transportation infrastructure.

We urge you to support H.R. 761 when it is brought to the floor later this week. This bill would be a positive step toward improving the future of Minnesota's mining industry and creating job opportunities and economic development throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob McFarlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bob McFarlin

Vice President, Public and Government Affairs
Twin Metals Minnesota

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