

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this very important forum. My name is Mike Jugovich, a resident of Chisholm Minnesota. I am also a St. Louis County Commissioner currently serving in my sixth year. I was formerly the Mayor of Chisholm for ten years and served on the City Council six years prior to that. As a retired Steelworker I know the mining industry well.

I'm here today to talk about the great value Twin Metals will have to Minnesota and the United States as a whole. We have been mining in Minnesota for roughly 140 years. Over that span we have mined safely and effectively, having some of the cleanest, if not the cleanest water in the nation. This is something we take great pride in we are proud of our clean water legacy and will tolerate nothing but the safest conditions from our local mines. Our regulatory agencies work diligently to enforce the rules and regulations set forth to ensure we maintain our high standards. The companies, unions, and the general public are unified in this effort. We live, work, and raise families here. There's no one more environmentally friendly than we are.

Some things some of you may not know.

1. Every student in Minnesota gets close to \$42 annually from our School Trust Fund. It contributes a whopping 36 million every year. These dollars come from our natural resources. Its not just the Northern part of the state that sees the benefit, It's International Falls to Rushford-Peterson School Districts and everything in between. With more mining every student will see an increase.
2. The Iron Range supplied the ore that was critical in two World War victories. It wasn't outsourced, these materials came from the blood, sweat, and tears of Rangers that understood just how important Made in America is. We share those same values as our ancestors today. Unfortunately, we have become more dependent of foreign nations for critical minerals that supply our national defense. This cannot continue. We have learned over the past two years just how important the supply chain is.
3. The Duluth Complex is the largest deposit of critical minerals in North America. Polymet, another project in the area had an economic study roughly 10 years ago. That study estimated an annual impact of 550 million dollars every year for the life of the project. With inflation those numbers have surely increased. Twin Metals is a larger project that will have an even larger impact. The Opportunities are endless with Twin Metals, shutting it down before it starts is not the answer.

Small communities in Northern Minnesota depend on mining. Its part of who we are. Mining is the backbone of our economy. Copper Nickel Mining is the next phase for us. Future generations need employment opportunities on the Iron Range. Mining precious metals will create jobs for years to come. Let's keep manufacturing local where Made in America is a way of life, on The Iron Range!