

**Minnesota Mining and American Potential:
An Opportunity for a Brighter and More Secure Future**

Testimony of Ryan Jackson
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Good morning and thank you for this opportunity. My name is Ryan Jackson, I am the Senior Vice President for Government and Political Affairs at the National Mining Association.

Mining is one of the most heavily regulated industries in the U.S. and the NMA's mission is to build support for public policies that will help fully and responsibly utilize domestically sourced minerals.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Northern Minnesota and specifically the Duluth Complex contains world class deposits of minerals essential for renewable energy, vehicle electrification, and other climate goals, and in fact, the largest undeveloped deposits of nickel, copper, and platinum metals in the world. It is within this area that Twin Metals has proposed to construct a mine entirely with union labor and removed from the 1.5 million acres of protected national forest and wilderness.

However, a new withdrawal process reinitiated by the Biden Administration and a broad withdrawal rider in House passed appropriations legislation places this project in jeopardy and does not acknowledge our nation's alarming reliance on mineral imports from foreign sources. The U.S. is over 50% import reliant for nickel, 79% reliant for platinum, 76% reliant for cobalt, and even nearly 40% reliant for copper. These withdrawals would arbitrarily foreclose evaluation of the project through the National Environmental Policy Act, Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, and permitting processes designed to provide policymakers the data to make informed decisions.

Less than half the mineral needs of U.S. manufacturers are met from domestically mined resources. Federal lands are the source of much of our nation's estimated over \$6 trillion mineral deposits. While mining is not appropriate on all federal lands, responsible access to domestic resources and secure mineral supply chains are essential to every aspect of our lives, from energy, communications, manufacturing, infrastructure, national defense, to new technological advancements. Some mineral supplying competing countries do not value environmental protections and labor standards the way we do. But projects like Twin Metals, and other NMA member projects in Minnesota like Polymet's Northmet Project will be constructed with union labor and produce millions of pounds of copper, nickel, cobalt, and platinum. And Talon's Tamarack Project with a newly announced agreement to provide 165 million of pounds of nickel to Tesla and is supported by the United Steel Workers proves that the U.S. can and should prioritize domestic production and that we need not choose between mining and environmental protection and labor standards.

Thank you.