

Attachment #2  
pg. 1 of 5

**Tom Rukavina**  
State Representative

District 5A  
Minnesota's Iron Range



**Minnesota**  
**House of**  
**Representatives**

**IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD**

**COMMITTEES: CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND FINANCE DIVISION  
FINANCE; CAPITAL INVESTMENT FINANCE DIVISION;  
EDUCATION FINANCE AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS FINANCE DIVISION; TAXES**

MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2008

**TO:** Susan Thornton, Director  
LCCMR

**FROM:** Range Delegation

**RE:** Enclosed Letters

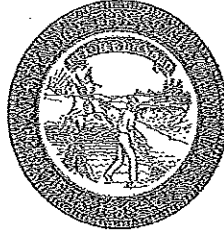
Enclosed are letters from the Iron Range Delegation regarding the issue being brought up at the September 24, 2008 meeting of the LCCMR relating to the emerging issues account requests, in particular the LCCMR initiative follow-up to July 18 discussion – nonferrous mining and water quality impacts research.

We respectfully request that you read these letters prior to the discussion. Thank you.



**Tom Rukavina**  
State Representative

District 5A  
Minnesota's Iron Range



# Minnesota House of Representatives

## IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND FINANCE DIVISION  
FINANCE; CAPITAL INVESTMENT FINANCE DIVISION;  
EDUCATION FINANCE AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS FINANCE DIVISION; TAXES

September 23, 2008

Susan Thornton, Director  
and LCCMR Members  
65 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Thornton and Members:

We are writing regarding the request from Senator Ellen Anderson for funding from the LCCMR Emerging Issues Account for a non-ferrous metal mining procedural review.

This is not an emerging issue. Polymet has been working on this for almost four years, and is ready to ask for permitting. It is not right to bring this issue up at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour in an attempt to do an end run around the process in place.

Further, this is not an issue for the LCCMR to determine -- it is for the Legislature to set policy and to determine appropriate procedures and funding. Last year, Senator Tomassoni and Representative Rukavina, along with the entire Range Delegation, held a joint informational public hearing on non-ferrous metal mining that included Senator Ellen Anderson's and Representative Wagenius' respective committees. At that hearing, staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency testified that the state of Minnesota has adequate laws and rules in place to conduct environmental review, permitting, and to financially assure non-ferrous mineral development. Everyone had the opportunity to introduce legislation regarding this issue. It is not the job of the LCCMR to hire and investigate -- that is a legislative decision.

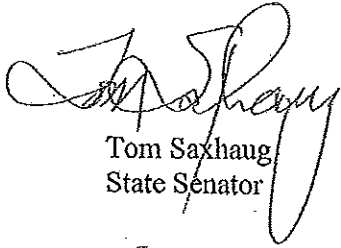
Finally, none of us are able to attend tomorrow's hearing, in particular, Representative Rukavina who is on the Commission but who is attending a family funeral out of state. We respectfully request you table this issue.

Sincerely,

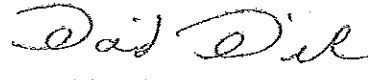
Tom Rukavina  
State Representative

David Tomassoni  
State Senator

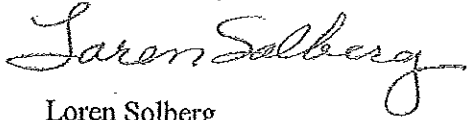





Tom Saxhaug  
State Senator



David Dill  
State Representative



Loren Solberg  
State Representative



Tom Anzels  
State Representative



Tom Bakk  
State Senator

**Tony Sertich**  
Majority Leader



# Minnesota House of Representatives

District 5B  
St. Louis County

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION  
WAYS AND MEANS  
FINANCE

September 23, 2008

Susan Thornton, Director  
Legislative & Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources  
65 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Thornton and LCCMR Members:

Minnesota has a long history in mining and mineral development. Many have benefited from these developments, particularly the University of Minnesota, our schools through the school trust fund, and many of our citizens who gained employment and success for their communities and families. In fact, Minnesota's leadership in mining and minerals contributed greatly to American successes in the world wars and the economic growth that marked our emergence and leadership in the twentieth century.

Throughout this process, our state has developed an elaborate and effective system of environmental protection, permitting, and management of this great resource. Millions of dollars have been spent on highly trained staffs of professionals to recommend, manage, and regulate these enterprises. Mining and mineral development is no longer simple; it is highly complex, tightly regulated, and currently managed for the best interest of our economy, our environment, and our communities.

To that end, the Minnesota Legislature has held hearings, set policy, and directed appropriations and procedures for this development over a number of years. In fact, Senator Tomassoni and Representative Rukavina held a joint public hearing on non-ferrous mining that included Senator Anderson's and Representative Wagenius' committees. At that hearing, staff from our professional agencies, including the DNR and MPCA, testified that the state has adequate laws and rules in place to conduct environmental review, permitting, and funding to insure responsible development of our state's resources.

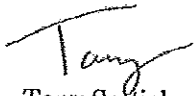
Currently, several developments are being considered. The state has been involved intimately in the details of these developments through a number of years. The private sector has spent millions of dollars complying with existing rules, procedures and regulations.



Now, however, we understand there may be a request from Senator Anderson for LCCMR funding from the emerging issues account for a review of non-ferrous mining. This is not an emerging issue. The state's interests are already strongly protected. We jointly gathered testimony previously on this issue. And this is now being proposed after several years of development work. We jointly oppose this review as redundant, unnecessary, and wasteful.

Our voice from the Iron Range on the LCCMR, Representative Rukavina, is unable to attend tomorrow's hearing where this request may be considered due to a death in his family. We respectfully request that the LCCMR table this issue until our voice can be heard.

Sincerely,



Tony Sertich  
House Majority Leader