

Alyssa Bryant

From: Roberta Pirkola
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Alyssa Bryant
Subject: FW: PolyMet

From: Caree Gordon [mailto:careegordon13@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 8:37 AM
To: Council <Council@duluthmn.gov>
Subject: PolyMet

Attention City Council Members,

I am writing to ask for a full, fair, and fact based hearing prior to a decision regarding PolyMet's permit application. There is so much at stake, that we the people who live in MN need to take action to protect our water from the proposed sulfide mining project.

Having been a MN resident most of my life, I realize how important it is to protect our clean water for our children & their children & their children, etc. People take things for granted, to never think about something because you think it will always be available.

I used to issue BWCAW permits for the U.S. Forest Service. There are many people who travel long distances & even from other countries to vacation in this pristine area with some of the cleanest water in the USA. Superior National Forest borders need to be honored, not changed to accommodate PolyMet. PolyMet's largest share holders are from foreign countries. Minnesota's rules require mines be maintenance-free at closure. Will we the people who value Minnesota's water and natural beauty write its destiny? Or will we cede that task to a profit-driven foreign extraction company?

Acid mine drainage polluting the pristine Boundary Waters would be catastrophic, perpetual and a risk we simply can't take. If the headwaters are poisoned, the entire system will be poisoned. But shouldn't we be just as concerned about poisoning the headwaters of the St. Louis River, the largest U.S. tributary to Lake Superior, which holds 10 percent of the world's nonfrozen fresh surface water? The St. Louis River was designated in 2015 by American Rivers as one of the 10 most endangered rivers because of the PolyMet copper-nickel mining proposal. (And in the PolyMet proposal, we get a twofer: There is data indicating both the St. Louis and Boundary Waters watersheds could be affected.) Hundreds of acres of wetlands will be destroyed and at risk are drinking water, wildlife and the treaty-protected hunting, fishing and gathering rights of the Ojibwe people. Also affected could be the citizens of Duluth and Superior and our progress from the investment of nearly \$1 billion to restore and promote economic development along the lower St. Louis River, which Congressman Rick Nolan applauded: "The St. Louis River and these Great Lakes are such an integral part of laying the foundation for that progress (in Duluth) to occur. We not only have fish and wild rice and wildlife coming back, we've got people coming back to Duluth and that's good. There's nothing better than that," he said, according to a November 2015 News Tribune story.

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water and natural beauty write its destiny? Or will we cede that task to a profit-driven foreign extraction company?

We the people need to fight for our rights, get together and make sure all the facts are on the table and let a judge determine what is in the best interests for Minnesotans.

Sincerely,
Randy & Caree Gordon