

Alyssa Bryant

From: Martha Oswald
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 8:18 AM
To: Alyssa Bryant
Subject: FW: Reject PolyMet Resolution

From: Nancy Aronson Norr [mailto:naronsonnorr@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 1:25 PM
To: Council <Council@duluthmn.gov>
Cc: Nancy Aronson Norr <naronsonnorr@gmail.com>
Subject: Reject PolyMet Resolution

Dear Councilors,

I am writing today to respectfully request you reject Resolution 16-0681R regarding the PolyMet permit to mine application. This project has worked with our state, federal and tribal entities to develop a mine plan consistent with rigorous environmental standards and received its notice of adequacy on the Final Environmental Impact Statement that when issued was not legally challenged by opposition groups.

The public input that is a significant aspect of the environmental review and permitting process is essential to the ultimate quality of mining projects. Supporters and opponents alike have taken full advantage of the public comment periods held throughout the 10 year life of this project. The DNR has a requirement to respond to all comments, including those of the scientific experts who oppose the project and to require PolyMet to make whatever project adjustments are necessary to address substantive concerns. If not satisfied, the DNR would not have determined the FEIS to be adequate.

I have heard the PolyMet mining project characterized as a water treatment project attached to a mine. Having toured the Eagle Mine in the Upper Peninsula, I witnessed first hand the level of technology involved in its protective systems. More important, I sensed the absolute passion of the employees to operate safely and with utmost care for the environment, their ethic born in their professionalism as well as their love for the area in which they are living and raising their families. My experience in working with PolyMet 's team, those raised locally on the Iron Range as well as the talent that has joined their team from other parts of the country, has taught me they have the same ethic.

We recognize that as a society, we all make use of precious metals as copper and nickel. Personally, I have a much greater degree of confidence that Minnesota based projects will mine metals in a manner that protects the environment and workers than I do in countries such as China.

The permitting process will also be subjected to rigorous review and further public comment periods. Once the permit to mine has been submitted and thoroughly reviewed, regulators should be the entities to determine whether there is an aspect of the project's permits that would benefit from an evidentiary hearing.

My father, now 86, grew up on the shores of Lake Superior, and swam in the polluted waters off Barkers Island as a little boy. That was an era when we didn't get it right as industry or as a society. We talk frequently about his love of Lake Superior. From my time as a little girl visiting my grandmother to my choice in 1985 to move to Duluth, Lake Superior has been a constant in my life. My connection to the lake runs deep. I would not support a process that I felt would allow unsafe projects to move forward and harm this important resource.

I commend current and past Duluth administrations and councils for the exhaustive work that has been done to make sure Duluth is doing everything it can to improve our stewardship of Lake Superior. The March overflow incident of the sanitary sewer system when 5.7 million gallons of untreated wastewater and sewage discharged into Lake Superior is an example that there is more work to be done.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views and for your commitment to public service.

Nancy Aronson Norr
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