



September 25, 2014

Governor Mark Dayton

Commissioner Edward Ehlinger, M.D., Minnesota Department of Health

Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Commissioner John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Dear Governor Dayton, Commissioner Ehlinger, Commissioner Landwehr, and Commissioner Stine:

RE: Comprehensive Analysis of the Health Risks and Public Health Impacts of the PolyMet NorthMet Sulfide Mine Project

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association, I am writing to offer support for the request that a comprehensive analysis of the health risks and public health impacts of the PolyMet NorthMet Sulfide Mine Project be conducted. This assessment will assist the state of Minnesota in making an informed decision as to the proposed project, taking into account any potential adverse effects this type of mining may have on the health of Minnesotans.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), "PolyMet Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) is proposing to develop a mine and associated processing facilities for the extraction of copper, nickel, and platinum group elements from the NorthMet Deposit in northeastern Minnesota." Furthermore, DNR notes that this mine "would be the first of its kind in the state." For a project on a scale as large as that of the PolyMet Mine Project, understanding the potential health effects, both positive and negative, is an important component in deciding whether to allow this type of mining in Minnesota. As pollutants and other contaminants associated with the mine could possibly affect the health of Minnesotans, the need to gather additional information through a comprehensive assessment is critical.

A health risk assessment and health impact assessment of sulfide mining is a reasonable step to take to protect the future health of Minnesotans. The MMA urges your support.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Jacobs, M.D., F.A.C.S.

President