



City of Biwabik
321 North Main Street
PO Box 529 Biwabik, MN 55708
(218) 865-4183 Fax: (218) 865-4580

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the residents, businesses, and taxpayers of the City of Biwabik, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File XXXX) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. This bipartisan bill, supported by the Iron Range Delegation, deserves your consideration and passage.

For generations, Iron Range communities have partnered with Minnesota's mining industry to power our state economy and provide the raw materials essential to modern life. In return, the taconite production tax has helped local governments maintain infrastructure, provide public safety services, and support the quality of life in communities directly impacted by mining activity. The Minerals Article builds on that long-standing partnership by modernizing outdated distribution formulas and ensuring future revenues from the anticipated startup of Mesabi Metallics are shared with the communities that have helped sustain Minnesota mining.

These are local production taxes paid by the mine, in lieu of local property taxes. They are distributed not to just one city, school district, and county where a taconite plant is located, but to several counties, 15 school districts, and over 70 cities and towns in Northeastern Minnesota.

This proposal would provide substantial benefits to municipalities across Northeastern Minnesota through increased distributions in several key areas, including:

- Approximately 25% increases in Mining Effects distributions for many Range cities and townships impacted by mining activity;
- Approximately 13.49% increases in Taconite Municipal Aid, helping cities manage rising costs for core local services;
- Approximately 22% increases in Mining and Concentrating tax distributions for communities connected to mining and processing operations; and
- Transitional guarantees for certain communities during the first two years of Mesabi Metallics production, providing added certainty during startup years.

These funds are critical to communities like ours. They support streets, utilities, police and fire protection, parks, economic development, and the local services residents rely upon every day. At a time when cities face inflationary pressures, aging infrastructure, and increasing service demands, these updates would provide meaningful assistance without shifting additional burden onto local property taxpayers.

The Minerals Article recognizes a simple truth: communities closest to mining operations should share in the benefits generated by those operations. Strong cities help sustain a strong workforce, a strong regional economy, and a strong future for northeastern Minnesota.

We appreciate the leadership of the Iron Range legislative delegation and all lawmakers working to advance this bipartisan proposal. We respectfully ask for your support of the Minerals Article and its inclusion in final tax legislation this year.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Biondich', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Biondich
Mayor
City of Biwabik

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 712
MOUNTAIN IRON-BUHL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

8659 Unity Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768

Office (218)735-8271

Fax (218)735-8982

www.MIB.k12.mn.us

Superintendent, Dr. Reggie Engebritson

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the students, families, staff, and communities we serve, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File XXXX) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. We thank the bipartisan Iron Range Delegation for its support of this effort.

For decades, Iron Range school districts have relied on taconite production tax revenues to help support educational opportunities, maintain school facilities, and stabilize local property taxes. Yet while mining taxes have continued to grow over time, many school-related distributions have remained largely frozen under outdated formulas. The Minerals Article represents a thoughtful modernization of those formulas and would direct new future revenues from the anticipated startup of Mesabi Metallics toward the communities and schools that have long supported Minnesota's mining economy.

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This legislation would provide meaningful benefits to school districts across Northeastern Minnesota by increasing key education-related distributions, including:

- Significant increases to the Taconite Railroad Aid Account, benefiting several districts;
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Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota students and communities.

Sincerely,

Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Mountain Iron-Buhl Public Schools

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation

Minnesota House Tax Committee

Minnesota Senate Tax Committee

Comm. Paul Marquart

Gov. Tim Walz



CITY OF MOUNTAIN IRON

"TACONITE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD"

PHONE: 218-748-7570 • FAX: 218-748-7573 • www.mtniron.com
8586 ENTERPRISE DRIVE SOUTH • MOUNTAIN IRON, MN • 55768-8260

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the residents, businesses, and taxpayers of the City of Mountain Iron, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File XXXX) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. This bipartisan bill, supported by the Iron Range Delegation, deserves your consideration and passage.

For generations, Iron Range communities have partnered with Minnesota's mining industry to power our state economy and provide the raw materials essential to modern life. In return, the taconite production tax has helped local governments maintain infrastructure, provide public safety services, and support the quality of life in communities directly impacted by mining activity. The Minerals Article builds on that long-standing partnership by modernizing outdated distribution formulas and ensuring future revenues from the anticipated startup of Mesabi Metallics are shared with the communities that have helped sustain Minnesota mining.

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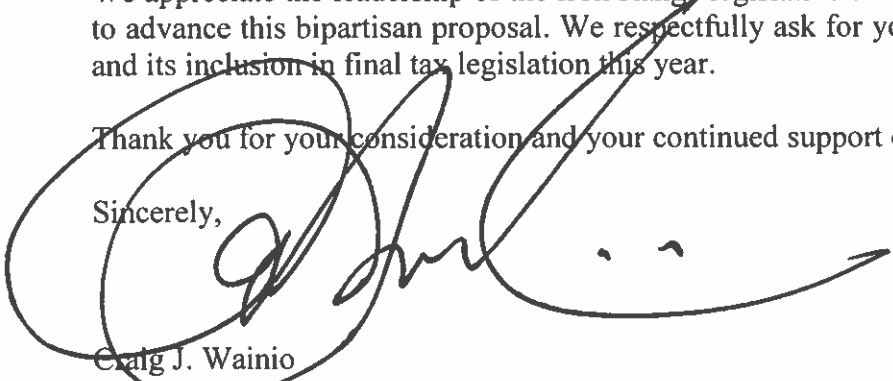
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Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota communities.

Sincerely,

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Craig J. Wainio
City Administrator
City of Mountain Iron

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



16 W 2nd Ave N • PO Box 160 • Aurora, MN 55705 • 218-229-2614

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the residents, businesses, and taxpayers of the City of Aurora, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File XXXX) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. This bipartisan bill, supported by the Iron Range Delegation, deserves your consideration and passage.

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We appreciate the leadership of the Iron Range legislative delegation and all lawmakers working to advance this bipartisan proposal. We respectfully ask for your support of the Minerals Article and its inclusion in final tax legislation this year.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota communities.

Sincerely,



Douglas Gregor
Mayor
City of Aurora

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



CITY OF BUHL

"Finest Water in America"

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the residents, businesses, and taxpayers of the City of Buhl, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File XXXX) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. This bipartisan bill, supported by the Iron Range Delegation, deserves your consideration and passage.

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CITY OF BUHL

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Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota communities.
Sincerely,

James Matthews
Mayor
City of Buhl

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

1701 NORTH 9TH AVENUE
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

TEL (218) 749-8130
FAX (218) 749-8133

www.isd2142.net

April 27, 2026

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Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

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"Small Schools with Big Opportunities ~ Where Everybody is Somebody!"

CHERRY ~ NORTHEAST RANGE ~ NORTH WOODS ~ SOUTH RIDGE ~ TOWER-SOUDAN

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Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D.

Superintendent

St. Louis County Schools, ISD 2142

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



CITY OF MOUNTAIN IRON

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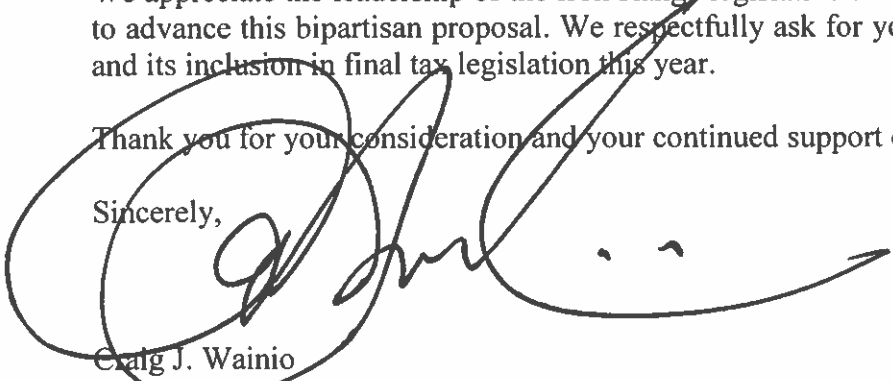
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Craig J. Wainio
City Administrator
City of Mountain Iron

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz



MESABI EAST SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 2711
Administration Office
601 N. 1st Street W.
Aurora, Minnesota 55705
www.mesabileast.k12.mn.us
(218) 229-3321 Fax (218) 229-3736

4-28-26

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the students, families, staff, and communities we serve, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. We thank the bipartisan Iron Range Delegation for its support of this effort.

For decades, Iron Range school districts have relied on taconite production tax revenues to help support educational opportunities, maintain school facilities, and stabilize local property taxes. Yet while mining taxes have continued to grow over time, many school-related distributions have remained largely frozen under outdated formulas. The Minerals Article represents a thoughtful modernization of those formulas and would direct new future revenues from the anticipated startup of Mesabi Metallics toward the communities and schools that have long supported Minnesota's mining economy.

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MESABI EAST SCHOOLS

**Independent School District No. 2711
Administration Office
601 N. 1st Street W.
Aurora, Minnesota 55705
www.mesabileast.k12.mn.us
(218) 229-3321 Fax (218) 229-3736**

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Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Minnesota students and communities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Burgess
Superintendent
Mesabi East School District



**Range Association of
Municipalities and Schools**

5525 Emerald Avenue

Mt. Iron, MN 55768

rams@ramsmn.org • 218.748.7651

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 Minerals Article (Senate File 2766/House File 5092) and respectfully urge its passage this legislative session. We are excited to ask for your support of this bipartisan legislation sponsored by the Iron Range Legislative Delegation.

Since 1939, RAMS has represented the collective interests of Iron Range communities, townships, and school districts. Today, our organization speaks for more than 70 local governmental units across northeastern Minnesota, united by the principle of “*One Range, One Voice!*” We advocate for policies that strengthen the economic vitality of our region, protect our communities, and sustain the partnership between Minnesota’s natural resource economy and the people who make it possible.

The Minerals Article reflects that partnership. It modernizes taconite production tax distributions and prepares Minnesota for the anticipated startup of Mesabi Metallics by directing future revenues toward the communities, schools, and local governments that have long supported the mining industry. For many years, local distributions have remained frozen while costs for education, infrastructure, and public services have continued to rise. This proposal provides an overdue update that better reflects today’s realities and the effects of inflation over many years.

The legislation would provide meaningful benefits throughout the Taconite Assistance Area, including:

- Increased support for school districts through enhancements to the Taconite School Fund, Taconite Railroad Aid, and School Building Maintenance accounts;
- Increased support for cities and townships through Mining Effects distributions, Taconite Municipal Aid, and mining and concentrating tax allocations;
- Additional stability through temporary guarantees during the first years of Mesabi Metallics production; and
- Long-term reinvestment in the communities that host and support Minnesota’s mining economy.

These resources help local governments maintain roads, water and wastewater systems, emergency response services, housing readiness, and other essential infrastructure. They help schools address facility needs, support students, and remain strong anchors within their communities. Most importantly, they help ensure a portion of the economic benefits of mining continue to strengthen the region where mining occurs.

The mining of iron ore has been, with farming and logging, a long-term basis of our economy in Minnesota. While some companies and industries have come and gone, the





**Range Association of
Municipalities and Schools**

5525 Emerald Avenue

Mt. Iron, MN 55768

rams@ramsmn.org • 218.748.7651

iron ore industry, like farming and logging, has benefited Minnesota and its citizens for over 146 years. We see a strong future ahead of us, and we are proud that a new taconite plant will open on the Mesabi Iron Range soon—the first new one in 50 years.

RAMS has long believed that when the Iron Range succeeds, Minnesota succeeds. The Minerals Article is a practical, forward-looking proposal that supports communities, promotes regional stability, and recognizes the ongoing importance of mining to our state economy.

We respectfully urge your support for the 2026 Minerals Article and its inclusion in final tax legislation this year.

Thank you for your consideration and continued service to the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Paul Peltier
Executive Director
Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS)

***RANGE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOLS (RAMS)** The organization represents more than 155,000 residents and over 70 public sector units of government, including 27 cities, 33 townships, and 15 public school districts in the 13,000 square mile Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) of northeast Minnesota. As an organization, RAMS has represented the interests of the Iron Range region for 85 years.*



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 319
Nashwauk Keewatin Public Schools

100 Spartan Way
Nashwauk, MN 55769

Dr. Rae Villebrun, Superintendent/K-12 Principal

Lisa Smith, Assistant Principal/Activities Director

1280 ext. 51234

218-885-1280 ext. 51101

218-885-

[@isd319.org](mailto:isd319.org)

lsmith@isd319.org

rvillebrun

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

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Sincerely,

Barb Kalmi
Vice Chair

Nashwauk Keewatin Public Schools

cc: Iron Range Legislative Delegation
Minnesota House Tax Committee
Minnesota Senate Tax Committee
Comm. Paul Marquart
Gov. Tim Walz