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RANGE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES & SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION #2015 – 004

WHEREAS, nonferrous ores contain metals essential to modern daily life – copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold – found in countless products including cell phones, computers, diabetes test strips, joint replacements, electrical wiring, hybrid cars, catalytic converters and wind turbines; and

WHEREAS, the significant domestic demand for these metals exceeds our national supply due to very few mines in the U.S. producing them, creating an unhealthy imbalance and outside reliance on indispensable raw materials, even with the high rate of recycling (the U.S. currently imports nearly 90 percent of its copper and gold, and does not have any active nickel mines); and

WHEREAS, the proposed PolyMet site is located near the community of Hoyt Lakes, within an existing mining district where operating and former iron mines and processing facilities already exist and, with the existing infrastructure in place, the site is viewed as conducive for such an initiative without threatening our region's environment; and

WHEREAS, the ore industry has for generations supported tens of thousands of families in our region, dozens of communities, schools, commerce and recreation centers, and has created opportunities for scores of children to attend universities and technical schools to develop their own careers and families within the region; and

WHEREAS, an independent research study conducted by the University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics indicated that the evolution of nonferrous mining in the region has the potential to generate more than 600 indirect jobs in goods and services; \$515 million annually in St. Louis County alone in wages, benefits and other spending (more than \$10 billion over the 20-year life of mine); \$15 million annually in state and local tax revenues (\$300 million over the life of the mine); \$45 million annually in federal tax revenue (\$900 million over the life of the mine); and more than \$2 million annually for northeastern Minnesota schools; and

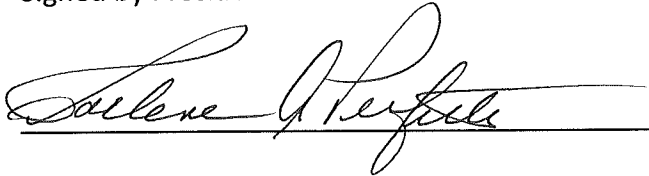
WHEREAS, the Northeast region is well positioned to support the addition of PolyMet Mining to the complement of local employers due to the high availability of skilled and dedicated workers and a comprehensive employment and training system to develop the appropriate workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Statement has been released by the MN Department of Natural Resources and meets or exceeds all required environmental standards and comes with a very strong recommendation from DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Forest Service's supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), "The SDEIS has thoroughly evaluated water quality impacts, and has shown the project will not cause an exceedance of aquatic life water quality standards."

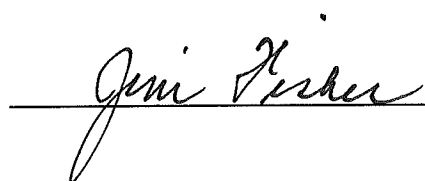
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools declares its support for the existing open, transparent, and comprehensive environmental review and permitting process in place for PolyMet's proposed NorthMet mining project, currently planned for development in Northeast Minnesota. We support the success of this project, for the above stated reasons and believe by meeting Minnesota's strict environmental standards through a comprehensive environmental permitting process, PolyMet will be poised to play a significant role in contributing to the sustainability of our region's economy by mining the metals we need every day without harming our region's air and water quality.

Approved by Board vote Ayes 15 Nays 0

Signed by President Carlene Perfetto

 _____ Dated: Dec 3, 2015

Vice President Jim Fisher

 _____ Dated: Dec 3, 2015