

RANGE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES & SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION #01-2021

NO NEED FOR "PROVE IT FIRST" LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, Mining has been part of Minnesota's economy for over 137 years and the mining industry has contributed billions to the economy of the state and has and still does employ generations of Iron Range residents, and

WHEREAS the Range Association of Municipalities & Schools was created in 1939 to protect the interests of the communities that were developed as a direct result of the mining industry, and

WHEREAS the natural mineral deposits found on the Iron Range assure that the region and the state have the potential to significantly grow the economic benefits for the region and the state for decades to come, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota and the Federal government have the most comprehensive and transparent science-based environmental review and permitting process in place, and

WHEREAS each proposed mineral development project must demonstrate it will meet and or exceed all state and federal regulations and standards assuring the environment will be protected, and

WHEREAS, the current environmental standards assure our air and water quality is protected, and the taxpayer is protected by requiring financial assurance, and

WHEREAS anti-mining legislators have proposed "PROVE IT FIRST" legislation that would cast aside Minnesota's exceptional environmental review and permitting process for determining the viability of mining operations, and

WHEREAS this legislation would essentially place a moratorium on mineral development in Minnesota, and

WHEREAS the legislation will stop the industry from providing needed responsibly mined domestic sources of critical metals, and

WHEREAS, these metals are needed for a green economy, as well as essential for our health care industry, national defense, communications, and technology industries, and

WHEREAS the Duluth Complex holds 95 % of our domestic resource of nickel, 88% of our domestic resource of cobalt, and 75 % of our domestic resource of platinum group metals, and

WHEREAS, by prohibiting mining of these essential metals in Minnesota, these anti-mining legislators are practicing Environmental Elitism by exporting our jobs and environmental responsibilities to foreign countries like China and The Democratic Republic of Congo, and

WHEREAS, development and mining of these precious minerals will provide direct benefits to the Permanent School Trust Fund of Minnesota thereby providing direct benefits to our school children, school districts and the University of Minnesota.

Now, Therefore, let it be Resolved, the Range Association of Municipalities & Schools Board of Directors stands united as "ONE RANGE – ONE VOICE" in opposition to this unnecessary and mining industry targeted legislation, and

Therefore, let it be Further Resolved, Minnesota already does "PROVE IT FIRST" with its strict environmental review and permitting process conducted by the highly qualified and respected professionals at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the MN Department of Natural Resources.

Voted on and adopted on: January 28, 2021

Ayes – 22

Nays - 0