



## **Critical and Strategic Metals Mining Talking Points**

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### Critical and strategic metals mining in Minnesota

- Critical and Strategic metals mining development is ready to create REAL jobs in the next generation of mining in Minnesota.
- More than four billion tons of untapped critical and strategic mineral resource deposit identified in Minnesota. One of the largest deposits in the world with true global significance.
- Approximately a dozen companies in Minnesota are at various stages of exploration and project development.

### Demand for critical and strategic metals domestically and globally

- Critical and strategic metals include the metals we use every day in all aspect of our lives; copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, cobalt, gold and titanium.
- The U.S. is currently dependent on foreign countries for a significant percent of all of these metals.
- There is a domestic and global demand for these metals and our current import dependency is a matter of national security.
  - Copper – we consume twice what we produce in U.S.
    - U.S. Consumption 2,020,000 tons
    - U.S. Production 1,320,000 tons  
Source: USGS
  - Nickel
    - U.S. Consumption 202,000 tons
    - U.S. Production NONE!

- Platinum
  - Consumption            150,000 kg
  - Production             3,600 kg
- Even with scrap recycling the U.S. is significantly dependent on foreign countries for our supply of these metals we use every day in our lives.
  - We use these metals for our cars, computers and cell phones.
    - Copper is used for plumbing and electricity.
    - Nickel is used for medical equipment and food processing equipment, including stainless steel.
    - Platinum is used in catalytic converters that reduce automobile air emissions.

#### Environmental responsibility in Minnesota mining

- Minnesota mining companies are using the latest technology to minimize disturbance and reclaim the land following operations.
- All companies must meet all state and federal guidelines and standards in order to operate a mine. This assures that air and water quality will be protected.
- Minnesota a national leader in strict and comprehensive environmental regulation. Every safeguard is in place to assure mining is done responsibly. All mining companies must demonstrate that they can meet strong air and water standards in order to receive permits.
- There is no fast track for mining companies to receive permits. PolyMet has been in environmental review for six years at a cost of over \$35 million in environmental testing alone.
- These critical and strategic metals are essential for a green economy.

#### Green Economy

- A green economy is not possible without these metals! For example:
  - 42 pounds of copper are in a standard car
  - 75 pounds of copper are in a hybrid
  - 100 pounds of copper are in an electric

- 4 tons (yes, tons) of copper are in the larger wind turbine (Vesta V90 3.0 MW turbine)

### Why the U.S.?

- Other countries, such as China, India and Russia are not doing it responsibly. In Minnesota, we are breathing the polluted air from Russia every day.
- There are large economic benefits to be gained from mining in the U.S., including jobs AND the environment. We can have both. For example:
  - PolyMet will create 360 Permanent well paying jobs, as well as 500 spin-off jobs in St. Louis County alone. The project will also result in \$242 million of annual economic benefit.
  - 34% of the regions' GDP is already from mining. We can grow the pie and increase that percentage.
  - Economic benefits are not short term. Resources being identified in the deposits demonstrate that there could be enough ore for up to 100 years of operation or even longer.

### Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

- Mining will create thousands of high paying jobs, thousands of spin-off jobs and millions of hours of up front construction jobs.
- University of Minnesota – Duluth's Labovitz School of Economics reported in March 2009:
  - Potential mining projects would create 5,600 jobs and \$2.29 billion of annual economic benefit. Adding construction would result in an additional \$3 billion of capital investment and an additional 5,400 building and construction jobs.

### Mining stabilizes communities

- Provides good-paying jobs
- Offers long-term career opportunities
- Helps prevent 'flight' to urban areas
- Provides supplier jobs throughout the state

### Tax Revenue

- Critical and strategic metal mining will generate tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue each year.
- Net Proceeds would benefit local cities, schools, towns and counties
- Mining is economic development without costing taxpayers a dime

### School Trust Fund

- The DNR projected \$1.5 to 2 billion to be generated to the STF by current possible projects. Royalties that help hold down property taxes in school districts all across Minnesota.