

## Your Views

### MDN right with editorial on Duluth area lawmakers

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#### Duluth

Your paper was right to recently express disappointment that Duluth area legislators did not support a permit streamlining bill for job creation projects, such as PolyMet ("Duluth Area Legislators Bite the Range Hand That Feeds Them"□□" March 10, 2011).

I can find no reason why they opposed such reasonable, common-sense legislation to help development projects not only in the Northland, but projects throughout the state. I'm left wondering if our Duluth area legislators were slipped a Mickey while conducting business in St. Paul.

First, partisanship can't be blamed for their opposition. True, all Duluth area legislators opposing the bill were DFLers. Yet, when I was recently in St. Paul for St. Louis County/Duluth Days at the Capitol, I saw legislators from both sides of the political aisle tripping over each other to throw support behind the streamlining bill. Democrat Gov. Mark Dayton supported it.

Second, these Duluth area legislators join opposition with a block of legislators largely from the Twin Cities Metro, almost half of whom came from two cities: Minneapolis and St. Paul. In doing so, they have, as your paper correctly pointed out, thrown their lot in with a group that has no interest in responsible economic development balanced with appropriate environmental safeguards. Rather, they join a group of environmental purists whose ultimate goal for our region is zero growth. It reaches the height of incredulity to believe that we Northlanders would destroy our beautiful, natural environment for jobs. After all, while a weekend playground to some, this is where we remain by choice to live and raise our families.

Can metropolitan environmental purists boast of still having 95 percent of the wetlands that existed in the area 100 years ago?

Finally, what were these legislators thinking in regards to jobs? I've heard each of them talk of the working man □□" and I don't believe they meant in China.

It's disappointing, if, as representatives of this area, they don't have a full appreciation of the relationship between Duluth area jobs and mining on the Range.

If remedial education is required here, might I suggest just a few possible Duluth operations: W P & R S Mars; Cummings NPowers; Industrial Welders & Machinists; Como Lube & Supplies; Jamar Company; API Electric; Viking Electric; Rental Service Corporation; and Road Machinery & Supply.

No, I can't explain these legislators' position nor am I in the position to apologize for them.

I can say to the Range and other areas throughout Northern Minnesota, rest assured many in our Duluth area both understand and appreciate the relationship between jobs in the Duluth area and industry outside our immediate area.

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