



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 6, 2016

Mr. Ian Duckworth  
Chief Operating Officer  
Twin Metals Minnesota  
380 St. Peter Street  
Suite 705  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Duckworth:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Commissioner Landwehr, our staff, and me on February 17, 2016, about Twin Metals' operations in northeastern Minnesota and its desire to access state land to advance its mining proposal.

As I told you, I have grave concerns about the use of state surface lands for mining related activities in close proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). I am not questioning the qualifications of either Twin Metals or its parent company Antofagasta PLC. Rather my concern is for the inherent risks associated with any mining operation in close proximity to the BWCAW and my concern about the State of Minnesota's actively promoting advancement of such operations by permitting access to state lands.

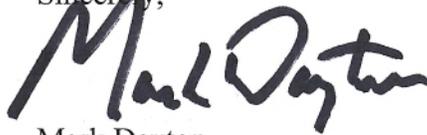
As you know the BWCAW is a crown jewel in Minnesota and a national treasure. It is the most visited wilderness in the eastern US, and a magnificently unique assemblage of forest and waterbodies, an extraordinary legacy of wilderness adventure, and the home to iconic species like moose and wolves. I have an obligation to ensure it is not diminished in any way. Its uniqueness and fragility require that we exercise special care when we evaluate significant land use changes in the area, and I am unwilling to take risks with that Minnesota environmental icon.

Last Monday morning, I called the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss the importance of the BWCAW to Minnesotans. I apprised the Director of my strong opposition to mining in close proximity to the BWCAW. I was informed that the BLM is in the process of making a determination pertaining to the renewal of Twin Metals' federal lease holdings. I believe that the BLM decision will offer further guidance on the future of mining in the area.

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In light of my concern about using state lands to advance mining operations in close proximity to the BWCAW and given the uncertainty surrounding Twin Metals' federal mineral leases, I wish to inform you that I have directed the DNR not to authorize or enter into any new state access agreements or lease agreements for mining operations on those state lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Department of Natural Resources