

**SENATOR JENNIFER A. MCEWEN**  
SENATE LABOR CHAIR | DULUTH  
2317 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155



**Senate**  
State of Minnesota

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Northshore Mining Company  
**Andrea Hayden**  
*Environmental Manager*  
10 Outer Driver  
Silver Bay, MN 55614.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
**Bill Johnson**  
*Mining Planning Director*  
Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155.

To the Honorable Interested Parties,

For the purposes of the Mile Post 7 West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extension, and Stream Mitigation Environmental Assessment Worksheet, this letter is to serve as public comment standing in opposition to the project, as currently proposed.

It is troubling that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is poised to proceed without a recent or in-depth Environmental Impact Statement performed. An environmental review from the 1970s does not serve as sufficient review for a project of this scale.

I share concerns with environmental and community advocates that Northshore Mining Company is owned and operated by multi-billion-dollar transnational mining conglomerate, Cleveland-Cliffs with a well-known history of poor environmental compliance and a recent record of dangerous mining and discharge practices.

In 2022, Cleveland-Cliffs settled violations of the Clean Water Act with the United States Department of Justice, approving a \$3 million dollar payout, because of ammonia and cyanide-laden waste discharge into local waterways resulting in a river fish kill, in addition to beach closures across the Indiana Dunes National Park—which annually draws over 2 million visitors.<sup>1</sup> This failure to be a responsible steward of treasured waterways is alarming.

If this project is to continue, I respectfully ask that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources necessitate that Northshore Mining Company apply for a dam safety permit and ensure Northshore Mining Company utilize the least-risky and most stable dam construction methods available.

Community members, neighbors to Lake Superior, and Minnesotans deserve to know the potential threats of this project to ensure the best interests of the environment and the affected communities are met. This is best accomplished by requiring Northshore Mining Company to perform a full Environmental Impact Statement that is made available to the greater public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer A. McEwen".

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen  
District 08—Duluth

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. 2022. *Cleveland-Cliffs Agrees to Improve Environmental Compliance at Indiana Facility and Pay \$3 Million Civil Penalty for Ammonia and Cyanide Violations*. Press Release, Washington, D.C.: U.S. DOJ Office of Public Affairs.