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August 26, 2015

BY EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Paul H. Glaser
Department of Earth Sciences
University of Minnesota
310 Pillsbury Drive, S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Professor Glaser,

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) has requested on your behalf the use of several miles of private roads for you to gain access to land that is the subject of a proposed land exchange between Poly Met Mining, Inc. (PolyMet) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

As we understand it, you are intending to use these private roads for the purpose of obtaining access to federal lands within the proposed location of PolyMet's NorthMet Project mine site. We further understand that, on July 20, 2015 you applied for USFS approval of your research project, noting that "[r]oad access to the site will be sought only after obtaining a research authorization." In response, on July 23, 2015 the USFS approved your research application (File Code 4080), but expressly conditioned this approval, stating: "This approval grants permission to conduct research but cannot grant permission to access the site via a privately owned road." You are now requesting that PolyMet immediately agree to authorize this access to private lands.

After careful consideration, PolyMet is denying you permission to utilize these private roads at this time.

The private roads that provide access to the NorthMet mine site are used for business purposes only. Because Mine Safety and Health Administration-regulated safety and training, liability, and security are of paramount concern and responsibility in our day-to-day

activities, we cannot accommodate requests to use private property for non-business related use.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are supervising extensive research and monitoring for environmental review and permitting purposes. We believe that MN DNR and USACE process is the most effective way to make unbiased scientific data and analysis available to both regulatory decision-makers and the public.

The application submitted to the USFS states that the work is sponsored by MCEA and the Friends of the Boundary Waters (Friends). MCEA and the Friends have consistently filed comments critical of the USFS's proposed Land Exchange, and both organizations have consistently opposed any federal or state permitting that would authorize mining.

On August 11, 2015, MCEA's staff attorney Kathryn Hoffman publicly stated "[i]f the [NorthMet] permitting process starts next year, MCEA will sue to stop it." Thus, MCEA is on record as stating that it will sue to stop the *process* for submitting and reviewing permit applications. We feel no obligation to allow a non-federal third party, with MCEA's stated intent to litigate and its efforts to prevent PolyMet from commencing the permitting process, access across private roads as requested.

For all of the reasons set out in this letter, PolyMet is not willing to provide access to our private road as you have requested.

Sincerely,



Brad Moore
Executive VP - Environmental and
Governmental Affairs

c: Brenda Halter, USFS
Jill Bethke, MCEA
Scott Strand, MCEA
Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Venable LLP