

**MINNESOTA COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (MN COLA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, sulfide mining has proven to be hazardous to water quality and aquatic life surrounding the mining operations everywhere it has been permitted; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed the mining operation and those that follow are located at the very top of two continental watersheds and within wetland areas crucial to groundwater recharge; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed land exchanges are neither contiguous nor of similar quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the damage done by sulfide mining is estimated to require 200-500 years of monitoring and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of monitoring and treatment for such a long period is nearly impossible to estimate or guarantee fulfillment; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of "adaptive management" of "actual effects" is far too vague to assure prevention of environmental damage; and

**WHEREAS**, dependance on liners and covers for tailings basins and stockpiles cannot be proven to be adequate to prevent leakage over long term or even the duration of the mining operation; and

**WHEREAS**, critical computer modeling of runoff into nearby waters has been shown to be inaccurate and underestimated; and

**WHEREAS**, other inaccuracies have often occurred in pre-mining assessment that fail to predict long-term outcomes of large scale sulfide mining; and

**WHEREAS**, the owners of the mining operations have not demonstrated the best management practices of the environment elsewhere, escaping responsibility by sale or bankruptcy; and

**WHEREAS**, the PolyMet proposal and SDEIS is only the first of many more similar operations, thus setting a an environmental standard for the subsequent; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the risks of extensive and permanent damage to the environment outweighs the benefits of relatively short-term job creation and limited metal extraction, and

**THEREFORE** urge the DNR to take caution and deny the proposed permits to mine non-ferrous metals in this sensitive region.

Duly adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014 at St. Paul, MN.  
Board of Directors; MN COLA

ATTEST:

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Tom Nelson; President

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Barb Halbakken Fischburg; Secretary