

Dear Minnesotans,

St. Louis County is by far the biggest county in Minnesota. In fact, it's bigger than three states. It also has the richest natural resources in our state.

This county is home to more than 200,000 Minnesotans who choose to live and work here for many reasons: the great quality of life, the natural beauty, and the jobs that allow us to buy homes and support our families.

With advancing technology, we are on the verge of a new reality in our county. Copper, nickel and precious metals mining has the potential to change our future in powerful ways. We'll leave it to the state and federal agencies to move through the permitting process, but as a county, we can prepare for our exciting future.

In an effort to highlight our unique natural resources and minerals, we have changed the name of our Land Department to the St. Louis County Land & Minerals Department. This is just one example of how we are looking at all facets of what we do to ensure the mining industry continues to find a positive home in our county.

Another way we can support our economic growth is by asking Minnesota to join St. Louis County in thanking the thousands of people who currently anchor our state's mining industry. Salute Iron Range residents today. Go ahead, hug a Ranger.

Commissioner Keith Nelson
St. Louis County Board Chair

Hug a Ranger?

Here's three billion reasons why.

\$3 billion projected for the State School Trust Fund

With the addition of nonferrous mining in Northeastern Minnesota, revenues for the State School Trust Fund are projected to exceed \$3 billion in the next two decades. Currently, the State School Trust Fund has a \$750 million balance. This fund is primarily from Northeastern Minnesota School Trust mining and timber land. A \$3 billion increase could mean an iPad in the hands of every Minnesota student.

...and millions more

\$400 million in the Permanent University Fund. This fund, also primarily from Northeastern Minnesota mining and forest management operations, provides sizable scholarships for more than 20 percent of all incoming freshmen to the University of Minnesota system.

In addition...

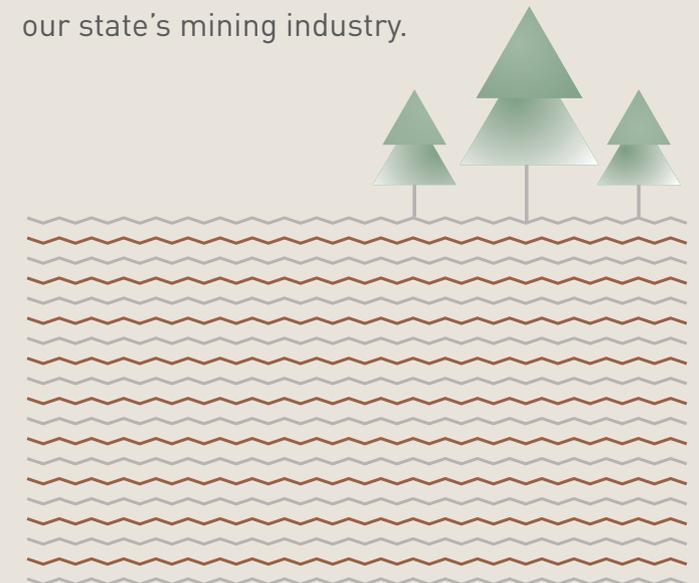
Billions of dollars in tax base from Northeastern Minnesota have been contributed to the recreational needs of the state and the nation to provide the Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, and over one million acres of the BWCA Wilderness.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Lands and Minerals



Show your love for Minnesota's Iron Range.

Thank the thousands of people who currently anchor our state's mining industry.



www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Salute Minnesota's Iron Range

Mining is an integral part of Minnesota's past and future. St. Louis County is proud to be at the heart of it. The Iron Range is fortunate to have abundant resources, including critical and strategic metals that are used in our everyday lives. Continued growth of mining in the county will benefit all of Minnesota.

Iron ore mining is the single largest contributor to the Northeastern Minnesota Arrowhead region economy

Mining helps support more than 10,000 jobs in Minnesota

An iron mining job generates an additional 1.8 spin-off jobs in other industries

Mining contributions to the state's economy jumped from \$2.3 billion in 2001 to \$4.7 billion in 2007

Mining operations contributed more than \$148 million in state and local taxes in 2008

\$46 million in mining taxes supported Minnesota schools in 2008, that's more than \$50 per student

More than \$11 million in mining taxes supported the University of Minnesota in 2008

School Trust Lands, used mostly for forestry and mining, currently give school districts across the state \$26 for every student; these dollars are expected to double as mining expands

New, nonferrous projects in Minnesota have the potential to add more than \$2.7 billion to the state's economy and another 7,000 new jobs by 2013

New nonferrous and continued growth of iron mining projects could triple mining's economic impact in Minnesota

Mining companies continue to develop new technologies to extract minerals with more environmentally sound practices

HUG A RANGER

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

If all mining projects move forward as planned, contributions to the state's economy could amount to \$6 billion annually and provide 13,615 Minnesota jobs over the next few years.

Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research at University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics (2009), *The Economic Impact of Ferrous and Non Ferrous Mining on the State of Minnesota and on the Arrowhead Region and Douglas County, WI*

