



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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St. Louis County Board votes to oppose a PEIS for precious metals mining

The St. Louis County Board went on record today voting in opposition of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in the Superior National Forest by the United States Forest Service. Commissioners, meeting today in Ely, approved the resolution 6-0 with Commissioner Frank Jewell abstaining. In voting on the resolution, several noted it is an advisory resolution only, and the matter will likely be decided by the courts.

The resolution approved today states that proposed nonferrous mining projects and other mines within the Superior National Forest are already subject to rigorous and responsible environmental oversight by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and relevant federal agencies, thus a PEIS would duplicative and unnecessarily costly, and a deliberate stall tactic to slow the process.

In approving the resolution, commissioners noted it is consistent with previous advisory resolutions passed. “Our resolution that we passed three years ago stated emphatically that we are in support of copper nickel mining,” said Commissioner Keith Nelson who brought the resolution forward. “It states very clearly that it is after they pass all federal and state review. And I stand by that.”

Added Board Chair Mike Forsman, “I believe the supplemental EIS that has been done already... there’s no question in my mind that the work has been done and is continuing to be done so that it’s as safe as it can be done anywhere in the world.”

Numerous other communities, along with state representatives from the Iron Range and U.S. Representative Rick Nolan have all stated their opposition to a PEIS.

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