

1 instruments. To adapt an old saying: In God we  
2 trust, PolyMet, please bring cash.

3 BLANCHE WILCOX: Hi, my name is  
4 Blanche Wilcox, and I defer my time to J.T. Haines.

5 J.T. HAINES: Hi, my name is  
6 J.T. Haines. I live in Duluth, and I'm a volunteer  
7 with Duluth for Clean Water. I spent some of my early  
8 years growing up on the Iron Range in Mountain Iron.  
9 I have very fond memories of growing up in Mountain  
10 Iron.

11 The basic comment that I want to make  
12 today is that those of us in this area, we live  
13 downstream of this proposal, and as such, I think that  
14 the very serious concerns you're hearing from  
15 downstream communities need -- deserve special  
16 respect.

17 I have three brief comments about the  
18 permits. First, as you know, medical professionals  
19 around the state have called for a health impact  
20 assessment on this project to measure cumulative  
21 impacts to humans. That study has not happened. I  
22 view this as a failure in the process and something  
23 the draft permits do not adequately address.

24 Second, the U.S. Forest Service recently  
25 found that 28 percent of dams for this type of mining

KIRBY KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES  
(952) 922-1955

1 pause. We'll set your timer again. Everybody okay?  
2 J.T. HAINES: Charlie, are you okay?  
3 MODERATOR GOURLAY: Someone tripped.  
4 It's okay. We don't want to interrupt your speaking  
5 time, so we'll --

6 J.T. HAINES: Thank you. I just  
7 want to acknowledge this has been a long process, but  
8 I think it's really important, Commissioners, that we  
9 recall that this is the moment of decision, and it's  
10 required of all of us, elected officials and  
11 commissioners, that we give it a fresh look with the  
12 final details now, and I expect you to do that.

13 And I want to say that I regret that my  
14 advocacy for the children of this area feels like  
15 advocacy against the children from my old home town.  
16 That is not my intent.

17 I like to think that as Minnesotans we  
18 could agree that if our jobs harm or threaten our  
19 neighbor's children, as painful as it might be, maybe  
20 those aren't the right jobs.

21 Glencore is not a good company. They have  
22 a horrible record of mistreating labor and the  
23 environment. I think it's obvious they would say  
24 anything for profit. I do not trust them. I don't  
25 think anyone in here should trust them, either blue

KIRBY KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES  
(952) 922-1955

1 failed in the U.S. That rate is unacceptable in a  
2 water-rich environment.

3 Since this process began, agencies have  
4 updated climate data which confirms increasing  
5 frequency of heavy precipitation events in our area.  
6 My understanding is that these draft permits do not  
7 address the increased risk of dam failure to  
8 downstream communities. That is clearly a failure in  
9 this process.

10 Third, and finally, there has been no  
11 emergency response-planning education with downstream  
12 communities like Fond du Lac, like Cloquet, Esko,  
13 Duluth, and others. The threat of dam failure is  
14 high, and the threat of spills and leaks is,  
15 essentially, 100 percent.

16 It is unconscionable that downstream  
17 communities have not been educated and informed about  
18 dam failure rates, inundation analysis, and emergency  
19 response planning. How has that not happened?

20 This is a fundamental failure in the  
21 process, and the permits should be denied on that  
22 basis alone. This has been a long process, but I  
23 think it's important that we remember -- are we okay  
24 here?

MODERATOR GOURLAY: Take a quick

KIRBY KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES  
(952) 922-1955

1 hat or orange scarf.

2 Commissioners, we believe this process has  
3 failed in fundamental ways, especially with regard to  
4 downstream communities. I urge you to reject the  
5 permits. If this goes forward, I believe we will have  
6 sold Minnesota to the lowest bidder and nothing would  
7 ever be the same again. We need a better option.  
8 Thank you.

9 KORII NORTHRUP: So where do I  
10 start? You tell me.

11 MODERATOR GOURLAY: Well, say your  
12 name and city, and we'll start after you start  
13 speaking.

14 KORII NORTHRUP: Okay. My name is  
15 Korii Northrup, K-O-R-I-I, Northrup. I come from the  
16 Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa. I live  
17 over there on the reservation. I've been there about  
18 four years, but I was born and raised in Duluth, so,  
19 you know, obviously, Duluth has a big part of my  
20 heart.

21 I've heard a lot of people talk today  
22 about 500 years from now, and I stand here in front of  
23 you as, sort of, a relative 500 years from the past.  
24 500 years ago, we didn't worry about poisoned water.  
25 We didn't worry that we would not have enough wild

KIRBY KENNEDY & ASSOCIATES  
(952) 922-1955