

1 ensuring worker safety, then it needs to be allowed to
 2 engage in that business.

3 In the absence of following our own
 4 established rules, how is any enterprise to have
 5 confidence that they would want to locate in Minnesota?
 6 I believe our permitting and review process is robust
 7 and it works. It's time to end the debate and move
 8 forward with the permit to mine.

9 Two, I support allowing PolyMet to
 10 advance their project as it relates to the benefits of
 11 improvements to regional infrastructure. We've heard
 12 many calls for approving this project on the basis of
 13 jobs. And I absolutely agree.

14 But heavy industry like PolyMet
 15 supports us in many ways. Industry supports the
 16 expansion and protection of our harbor with products
 17 coming in and out. Heavy industry like PolyMet supports
 18 the construction and safety of rail.

19 Heavy industry like PolyMet supports
 20 education and research, like that at NRRI. And heavy
 21 industry like PolyMet supports the robust electric
 22 infrastructure providing significant reliability for
 23 which all Minnesotans benefit. Thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 JOHN ROSENE: Thank you so much. My 91

1 a slurry of toxic mine waste on top of unstable wetland
 2 soils is a Mount Polley recipe for disaster. The Mount
 3 Polley review panel warns it is not enough to tweak
 4 around the edges of what we've been doing. We cannot
 5 continue to use technology that is fundamentally --

6 MODERATOR GOURLAY: Hold the timer.
 7 The mic just cut out. Her time was not up. In the
 8 back, the mic just cut out. Is that one working? Do a
 9 test.

10 LIBBY BENT: Hello? Yes? Okay. All
 11 right. These are not problems of the past. Dam
 12 failures are increasing and PolyMet has not analyzed the
 13 increased risk of dam failure from higher precipitation
 14 events due to global warming.

15 Perhaps most troubling, where is the
 16 analysis of the value of one of the world's largest
 17 fresh water deposits? Water is becoming desperately
 18 scarce worldwide. 40 states could face clean water
 19 shortages in the next ten years.

20 This decision will broadcast
 21 Minnesota's priorities. Do we embrace a blue economy
 22 and lead the way in mining landfills for strategic
 23 metals and investing in copper and precious metal
 24 recycling?

25 Or do we trade multi-billion gallons 93

1 name is John Rosene, I will proudly defer my time to
 2 Libby Bent.

3 LIBBY BENT: Hi, I'm Libby Bent,
 4 downstream resident of Duluth. And I oppose the
 5 issuance of any permit. As my father observed, the
 6 sheer complexity of the chemistry, hydrology, and
 7 geology involved in sulfide mining without irreversible
 8 pollution in our water rich environment boggles the
 9 mind.

10 It's never been done because the cost
 11 would be huge, far in excess of the value of extracted
 12 metals. A more far-fetched industrial initiative is
 13 difficult to imagine.

14 So, what is going on? How did this
 15 plan make it past a federal law designed to protect
 16 watersheds, headwaters on forest service land? A state
 17 law requiring sulfide mines to be maintenance free on
 18 closure and treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather on a
 19 sea of territories requiring high biodiversity lands.

20 Why was the call for a health impact
 21 assessment ignored, even as 30,000 health professionals
 22 requested one? Why are warnings from mining engineers
 23 that the tailings basin design is risky and unsafe going
 24 unheeded?

25 The proposed upstream design to store 92

1 of our fresh water every year for deposits containing
 2 less than 1 percent minerals, transforming our lake
 3 country into a sea of toxic waste?

4 The rest of the world is choosing.
 5 El Salvador prizes water over gold saying, "We are the
 6 first country to evaluate the cost and benefits of
 7 metallic mining and say no."

8 Buffalo, New York is transforming
 9 their city from rust to blue, embracing an economy based
 10 on the Niagara River and Lake Erie. And Minnesota, 50
 11 years of cleaning up the St. Louis River, only to become
 12 the land of sky tainted waters?

13 As my dad would say, it boggles the
 14 mind. This decision is irreversible. For our future
 15 and for the greatest lake in the world, we cannot get it
 16 wrong. Please do not check one more box. Please reject
 17 these permits.

18 (Applause)

19 DAVID IVONEN: Like many of the other
 20 people here, I'm not really accustomed to public
 21 speaking, but this is an issue that's really tough for
 22 me. I grew up on the Iron Range, Chi sholm.

23 My grandfather drove or engineered
 24 trains from The Range to the Superior area. Another
 25 grandfather worked in the underground mines, a pioneer 94