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## Minnesota Already Proves it First

**Duluth, Minn. (January 13, 2021)** – MiningMinnesota today released the following statement regarding the announcement from anti-mining groups proposing Prove it First legislation:

Prove it first? Done! That is what our current system is designed to do.

You have to ask; what is this legislation all about? Simply put, this legislation is a desperate attempt by anti-mining groups to kill an industry. They oppose projects in environmental review. They oppose projects in permitting. And, when they are losing, they file lawsuits in the courts. These groups do not want to make projects better. They want to make sure they never happen.

Now, the anti-mining groups are desperate to change the law because they see that the current system is working as it was intended.

Minnesota has a comprehensive science based environmental review and permitting process in place. With this legislation the anti-mining groups are saying the agencies and their professionals are wrong, and the communities that support copper nickel mining projects are wrong.

This effort, by a few misinformed legislators, will kill an opportunity for Minnesota to provide the critical minerals needed for both a green economy, as well as essential for our health care industry. Our state has a world class deposit of these needed metals, with 95 percent of our domestic resource of nickel, and 88 percent of our domestic resource of cobalt. If these groups say you can't mine it anywhere safely, why are these same groups demanding more and more renewable technologies using these very same metals?

This approach by the anti-mining groups is not new. They tried it in Wisconsin. Wisconsin demonstrated they can successfully operate, close, and reclaim a copper nickel mine. As a result, Wisconsin repealed their terrible law.

Make no mistake, this is legislation designed to kill a way of life. The bill is unnecessary. It does nothing to improve the environment. Its only purpose is to stop this industry from providing needed domestic sources of critical metals before it gets started. It also chases investment away from Minnesota.

If a company demonstrates it will meet all state and federal standards, then it will not harm the environment. **The proof is in the permit.**

***MiningMinnesota** is an industrial trade organization made up of all nonferrous exploration and mineral development companies in Minnesota, along with approximately 100 supplier and vendor businesses, all committed to sustainable and environmentally responsible copper-nickel and PGM mineral development and mining in Minnesota.*