



April 1, 2025

Representative Dave Baker
Co-Chair

Representative Dave Pinto
Co-Chair
House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Co-Chair Baker and Co-Chair Pinto,

On behalf of the 70,000 members of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, I write to strongly encourage your committee to come to the aid of our Brothers and Sisters of the United Steelworkers who will be losing their jobs in the taconite mines of the Iron Range.

While these layoffs do not directly impact our members, we know that the families of those laid off need our assistance and deserve our support. Steelworkers in our northern Minnesota mines work hard to supply our nation with the raw materials that we use every day. These are hard, important jobs that are subject to economic forces far beyond the control of the rank-and-file workers who perform them. We worry that these jobs will not return before their regular unemployment insurance expires, and we urge this committee to make sure it is extended to help protect these families.

The Building Trades also supports the provisions in Article II of this bill. Section one is an improvement on rules to treat mine tailings that removes ambiguity and vagueness and sets quantifiable metrics to ensure that any water discharge meets the applicable water quality standards set by federal, state, local, or Tribal governments.

Section two would require the MPCA to update their rules regarding sulfate standards in a way that both protects wild rice waters and provides certainty to applicants building water treatment facilities. Both of these provisions are supported by the Building Trades and are necessary to encourage industrial economic development on the Iron Range.

Thank you,

Tom Dicklich
Executive Director