

Spencer Igo
State Representative

District 5B
Itasca and Cass Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

May 5th, 2022

Secretary Deb Haaland

Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington DC 20240

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Secretary Haaland,

In January, the Department of Interior revoked long-held leases for the Twin Metals mining project. This decision was made with minimal or no consultation with local leaders, and has devastating consequences for the future of Minnesota and our local economies.

I recently learned that you will be visiting Minnesota on Friday, and am respectfully requesting a meeting to provide feedback and share with you the consequences of your decision on behalf of the communities I represent. As Cabinet Secretary, you have a responsibility to represent ALL Americans, and to hear the voices of those who are impacted by decisions made by your office.

I wish to discuss how your decision to cancel these leases fits into President Biden's stated goal of increasing domestic production of these critical minerals. As you may know, President Biden announced his intention to invoke the Defense Production Act earlier this year, signaling his purportedly sincere desire to expand America's production of these minerals.

The Twin Metals mining project would provide significant new sources of critical minerals including nickel, copper, cobalt, and other elements that are critical to 21st century technologies. Minnesota is home to 95% of America's nickel reserves. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has shown the danger of relying on foreign adversaries for any exports, but particularly for these critical minerals. Hampering domestic mining only serves to strengthen the geopolitical hands of Russia, China, and other countries with long histories of horrific human rights violations and zero concern for the environment.

I hope in light of President Biden's stated goal of expanding America's production of these minerals that you will consider engaging in a productive discussion with me on how this critical project can proceed. Not only will it strengthen America's access to these minerals, it will provide immense economic benefits to the communities in the Northland and Minnesota families.

I stand ready to arrange a time and place to meet at your convenience and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Igo".

Spencer Igo