



Statement on the Governor's Anti-Mining Executive Order

August 18, 2026

Today, Governor Walz issued an unnecessary, anti-science executive order that takes the side of groups that have been driving jobs out of Minnesota for years over the hard-working men and women who have always had his back. He told us repeatedly over the years that he “just calls balls and strikes” when it comes to permitting decisions, and this action shows that he was just delivering talking points.

“With this action today, this Administration is turning its back on the working men and women that it has claimed to stand with. After today’s press conference in Ely, the Governor should drive through the Iron Range towns with closed grocery stores and consolidating schools and talk to some of our members that this action is hurting” said Tom Dicklich, Executive Director of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Just three months ago, Walz’s own DNR concluded a six-year legal battle by determining that the state’s regulations and permitting procedures were strong enough to protect the Boundary Waters from any “potential water, air, and other impacts from nonferrous mining”. The DNR said in this filing that this “essentially prohibits issuance of a water quality permit that would have a measurable impact on waters of the BWCAW.” This executive order is completely unnecessary, is a betrayal of the trust that the Building Trades have put in him, and a cheap political stunt.

The Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council represent 70,000 skilled union workers throughout the state.