



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

February 1, 2021

Lourenco Goncalves  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Cleveland-Cliffs  
200 Public Square, Suite 3300  
Cleveland, OH  
44114-2544

Dear Mr. Goncalves,

I am writing this letter out of concern about the future of two iron ore taconite operations—Minntac and Hibbing Taconite--on Minnesota's Iron Range and to request a call at your earliest convenience to discuss the challenges that these facilities face in the coming years. Both facilities are critical to the ongoing economic success of Minnesota's Iron Range--directly employing over 1700 workers collectively.

As you know, Hibbing Taconite has limited access to mineable ore reserves and is facing the possibility of closure in the coming years. While it is my understanding that Minntac has reliable reserves available for the immediate future, U.S. Steel has expressed interest in securing leases for additional high quality ore that would solidify the long-term options for the mine. Closure of any mine would be devastating to the individuals who work at the facility and to those in the surrounding community who depend on the mines.

I believe the continued success of both mines is possible. It is my understanding that there are mineable sources of additional ore in the immediate vicinity of both Minntac and Hibbing Taconite that are not currently owned or leased by the owner/operator of the mine to which the ore is most proximate. Minnesota needs leadership from our mining companies to work together on an approach that ensures the future success of both taconite operations. My agencies and I stand ready to provide assistance to U.S. Steel and Cleveland-Cliffs as they work towards a path forward.

While my staff had ongoing engagement with ArcelorMittal USA leadership about this issue, I am not aware that the challenges discussed have been resolved in the interim. With the recent acquisition of ArcelorMittal USA by Cleveland-Cliffs, I am hopeful that with your leadership a solution can be found that paves the way for a beneficial outcome for Minnesota's Iron Range. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to engage in discussions on how we can lay the groundwork for the continued success of both the Minntac and Hibbing Taconite mines.

Voice: (651) 201-3400 or (800) 657-3717  
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February 1, 2021

David B. Burritt  
President and CEO  
United States Steel Corporation  
600 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Burritt,

I am writing this letter out of concern about the future of two iron ore taconite operations—Minntac and Hibbing Taconite--on Minnesota's Iron Range and to request a call at your earliest convenience to discuss the challenges that these facilities face in the coming years. Both facilities are critical to the ongoing economic success of Minnesota's Iron Range--directly employing over 1700 workers collectively.

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While I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Vice President Doug Matthews over a year ago, I am not aware that the challenges we discussed have been resolved in the interim. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to resume discussions on how we can lay the groundwork for the continued success of both the Minntac and Hibbing Taconite mines.

For almost 120 years, U.S. Steel has mined iron ore in Minnesota as the basis for your steel operations. That steel formed skyscrapers across the United States, became the backbone of the American automobile industry, and built the tanks and planes that won World War II. Mineral royalties from U.S. Steel's operations have been the number one source of revenue for Minnesota's School Trust Fund, benefiting K-12 education

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