

***Resolution***

In support of increased competitiveness in rail transportation and in support of obtaining funding from appropriate sources.

To all to whom these presents may come – be it known

*WHEREAS:* Northeastern Minnesota relies heavily upon rail transportation of taconite pellets, timber products, coal, and other commodities,

*WHEREAS:* Minnesota's iron mining industry is trade exposed, such that global market forces resulted in the idling of over half of iron ore mines in Northeastern Minnesota in 2015, and today, many are still idled and remain laid off;

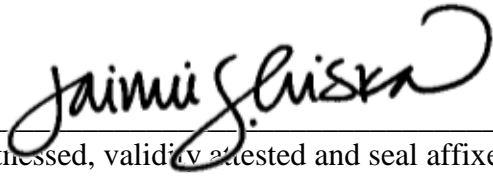
*WHEREAS:* Reliability and costs of power production from coal relies on competitive rail transportation.

*WHEREAS:* the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce understands that some regions important to the aforementioned business sectors are currently serviced by only one rail provider precluding competitiveness.

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce supports obtaining funding for studies related to the effects and solutions to captive rail.

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Stephen Peterson Sr.  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce



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Witnessed, validly attested and seal affixed by  
President/CEO, Jaimie Niska  
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, December 2016