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**A STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNOR -- December 22, 2010**

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"Good Morning,  
Minnesota"

**Saint Paul - The following is a statement from Governor Tim Pawlenty regarding the acquisition of Franconia Minerals by Duluth Metals:**

"Mining is part of Minnesota's heritage and will be a part of its economic future. We must continue to support investment in Minnesota based mining operations that lead to more jobs and protect our natural resources. Duluth Metals' acquisition of Franconia Minerals is an encouraging development in the advancement of mining projects in northern Minnesota."

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