



Cleveland-Cliffs Inc

May 9, 2006

Dr. Dean M. Peterson
Dr. James D. Miller
University Minnesota-Duluth
Natural Resources Research Institute
Duluth, MN

Dear Dr. Peterson and Dr. Miller:

Cleveland-Cliffs is pleased to express its support for the establishment of the Precambrian Research Center (PRC) at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Understanding the geology of ore deposits is critical to the success of the iron mining business; establishment of the PRC would help develop new talent and improve our knowledge of the regional geology.

Over the past several decades, fewer have chosen career paths in economic geology and related hard rock fields resulting in a void of new talent coming into the field. In recent years, there has been a resurgence in the mineral exploration industry, locally and globally, however, fewer schools are offering the essential disciplines. The PRC would provide greater opportunity for students who want to develop skills in geologic observation, critical thinking, modeling, data collection and interpretation.

Cleveland-Cliffs recognizes the growing need for development of new geoscience professionals within the industry and our organization. We look forward to establishment of the PRC and its contributions to the mining industry.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Fink
General Manager-Technical Services