

## News Release

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### State Legislators Tour the Largest Taconite Mine on the Mesabi Range

*Lawmakers learn how trust money from the  
land benefits Minnesota schools*

**Mountain Iron, Minn.** – On Thursday, October 10, a group of Minnesota legislators toured Minntac, the largest taconite mine on the Mesabi Range. During the tour, lawmakers learned more about the millions of dollars in annual trust money that iron ore mines, also known as ferrous mines, contribute to public education statewide. In 2012, United States Steel Corporation – which owns and operates Minntac and Keetac – contributed more than \$47 million in royalty payments to the trust fund. This amounts to 89% of the total trust fund contributions in 2012.

Revenues the state receives from mining activities at iron ore facilities like Minntac and Keetac go directly into the Permanent School Fund. The interest from the fund is distributed to every school district in the state. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the activity resulting from the mine blast the legislators witnessed at Minntac on October 10 (see photo) will result in approximately \$1 million for the Permanent School Fund.

#### **About Iron Ore Alliance**

The Iron Ore Alliance is a joint initiative of United States Steel Corporation and the United Steelworkers to help educate Minnesotans about the importance of U. S. Steel's iron ore business.

U. S. Steel's Minnesota Ore Operations, with its Minntac and Keetac facilities located in northeastern Minnesota, is the state's largest iron ore producer, and is a critical part of U. S. Steel's raw material supply chain. Minntac, located in Mountain Iron, is the single largest iron ore pelletizing operation in North America. For more information, please visit [ironorealliance.com](http://ironorealliance.com).

**Photo 10-10-13 Minntac mine blast:** According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the mining activity resulting from this mine blast at Minntac will result in approximately \$1 million for the Permanent School Fund.

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