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8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
### Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Eric J. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I am writing on behalf of a group of constituents from the Iron Range in Northern Minnesota called the Hard Rock Miners. These miners are facing an issue that has wide ramifications for all of the 3,900 taconite miners in Minnesota.

According to an investigation by the Inspector General of the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) in 2011, there were irregularities identified during an audit of the bankruptcy of the National Steel Pellet Company on March 6, 2002. The Hard Rock Miners believe there to have been collusion between the PBGC and National Steel, leading to hundreds of workers being denied all or part of their benefits.

A letter from Alexa Chappell received on June 26, 2012 in response to a September 1, 2001 letter from six Members of the Minnesota Legislature did not address whether the Department of Justice would investigate the claims of collusion, stating only that the United States Trustee Program (USTP) was unable to comment on the PBGC's administration of the pension plans. That was not the question asked by the Iron Range Delegation.

I ask that you give all due consideration to the Hard Rock Miners' claims and take appropriate action to bring justice to these miners. This matter has stretched out long enough, and these hardworking men and women deserve to have the promises made to them honored. I have included letters and documentation provided by the Hard Rock Miners.

Sincerely,

Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress

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