Dear Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Jones,

We would like to thank the USDA Forest Service, Custer Gallatin National Forest, and the MT DEQ for preparing the East Boulder Mine Amendment 004 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Please approve the Amendment.

As lifetime residents (one born here and the other over 50 years) of Sweet Grass County, as well as having spent over 50 years in the beautiful and scenic Boulder River Valley, we have found Sibanye Stillwater Mine to be a generous and respectful neighbor. They have contributed significantly to the economic base of Sweet Grass County, the county schools, the local electric co-op, the surrounding communities, the entire state of Montana and many and varied non-profits.

Our small family-owned construction company has been involved with the mine from the very beginning. (1980’s) Initially we assisted with checking weather data and facilitating access to a remote mine site. As the site began to be fully developed, we were able to do small scale site and access road construction and then later assist larger sub-contractor mining companies. As the mine has expanded, we are able to see firsthand the true benefits that the residents of Sweet Grass County enjoy. The Good Neighbor agreement, a collaborative effort of the mine and several environmental groups, is a great example of responsible economic development of critical minerals and the infrastructure necessary to retrieve them. We are very proud that “our” mine is setting the pace for the type of agreement that sets goals and objectives that benefit both the community and the mine.

As the mine has gone through its phases, our company has been able to hire more people, pay them better wages and offer better benefits than if the mine was not here. Our children, grandchildren and our employee’s children and grandchildren have and will continue to reap the benefits of a strong tax base and a stable economy.

While the Good Neighbor agreement set up a framework to protect the air, water, wildlife and the unique rural atmosphere of the county, in 2015, the state of Montana, in conjunction with the Montana Mining Association and others, created a rigorous process for Tailings Storage Facilities construction. Sibanye Stillwater Mining Company has applied state-of-the-art tailings storage practices reviewed by an Independent Review Panel that exceed both state and federal standards. While we, like others, share concerns over the failure of a tailings facility, we are confident that Sibanye Stillwater Mine has used the best engineering practices available and the likely hood of a failure is extremely negligible.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public process and appreciate your thorough analysis. If approved, continued operations at the East Boulder Mine will have a beneficial long-term impact for our rural communities, Montana and the United States!

Again, please consider approving the application for the amendment.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chip & Melanie Roe