



*County Superintendent of Schools*

*Callie Rech*

August 3, 2023

Dear Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Jones,

I am writing this letter to show support of Sibanye-Stillwater's proposal for tailings and waste rock storage facilities at the East Boulder Mine. I would like to thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for preparing the East Boulder Mine Amendment 004 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As Sweet Grass County's Superintendent of Schools, I recently received the East Boulder Mine's Annual Impact Monitoring Report for 2022 as well as the 2023 Tax Base Sharing Report. The positive impact of the Mine is clearly seen in both reports and thoroughly shows the wide-reaching scope of affected individuals and entities. The tax base alone makes a tremendous difference in the way our community operates and functions financially. The mine is also very involved in the community with constant support of different boards and events.

I live and have worked in multiple school systems in the Big Timber community and have witnessed the extensive positive impacts the mine has made in the community, the surrounding communities, as well as in my personal and professional life. We have been parents of two former students of BTGS and SGCHS, both schools where substantial financial support from the mine has benefited the education and continuing education of students. The mine's support has provided the entire educational systems of multiple county school districts with needed funds for retaining quality educators and administrators as well as helping to sustain safe and effective educational environments.

My husband is a member of the Hard Rock Mining Board and therefore I have had the privilege of touring the East Boulder Mine and the proposed Black Butte Mine in White Sulphur Springs. I grew up in Musselshell, MT, near Roundup, so saw a lifelong development of the Signal Peak mine as well. The professionalism and care taken at the East Boulder Mine is impressive and as I have been told, they are the template for responsible mining throughout the world. They have a proven track record to support this project.

Participating in the Good Neighbor Agreement, Sibanye-Stillwater and the GNA Councils have collaborated for more than two decades to balance the need for positive rural economic development while minimizing impacts on the physical and human environments. Through this collaborative arrangement, they have developed standards that exceed state and federal standards. Please consider acknowledging that the use of these best current available technologies, including water treatment, air quality control measures, and traffic and housing limitations, have created benefits for our communities. This is an impressive testimony to their desire to be an advocate for the environment while providing a real economic and socio-economic growth.

I 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 beneficial long-term impacts for our rural communities, Montana, and the United States. They are truly an asset to our communities of Sweet Grass County, as well as to our state and country, with their global presence in the world.

*Regards,  
Callie Rech*

P.O. Box 1310 • 515 Hooper • Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone: 406.932.5147 • Fax: 406.932.3017

Email: [crech@sgcountymt.gov](mailto:crech@sgcountymt.gov)

[www.sweetgrasscountygov.com](http://www.sweetgrasscountygov.com)