



August 8, 2023

USDA Forest Service

RE: East Boulder Mine Amendment
004 Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Expansion EIS #61385

Dear Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Jones,

The Billings Chamber of Commerce represents 1,100 members in Billings and eastern Montana with business interests that include agriculture, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, and natural resources, including Sibanye-Stillwater. Their business provides significant benefit to the Billings economy and surrounding communities,

We would like to add our support to Sibanye-Stillwater's proposal for tailings and waste rock storage facilities at the East Boulder Mine. Sibanye-Stillwater is a leader in the mining industry and has proven mining in Montana can be done sustainably and responsibly. Sibanye-Stillwater's active collaboration on sustainability through their 2000 Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) has proven their dedication to environmental accountability, minimizing environmental impacts through the development of standards exceeding state and federal requirements.

In addition to their track record on environmental stewardship, we feel it important to highlight their critical contribution to the economy. Sibanye-Stillwater's operations create good paying jobs across a wide spectrum of businesses. Among the significant economic impacts, Sibanye-Stillwater contributes more than \$6 billion to Montana's economic output, including over \$260 million in payroll taxes, much of which is spent in the Billings economy, boosting our other industries like finance, healthcare, retail, restaurants, and many others.

The Billings Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the East Boulder Mine Amendment. We encourage your approval, ensuring substantial economic benefits to Montana are not forsaken, while also demonstrating to other industries that businesses can benefit when they go above and beyond established government standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DANIEL J. BROOKS
Business Advocacy Director
Billings Chamber of Commerce