

August 4, 2023

Dear Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Jones,

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.

I live and work in south-central Montana and my livelihood/my community depends on Sibanye-Stillwater's continued operations. I respectfully request that the Agencies consider the following comments.

First and foremost, I support Sibanye-Stillwater's proposal for tailings and waste rock storage facilities at the East Boulder Mine. Sibanye-Stillwater has proven over the past four decades that mining in Montana can be done sustainably and responsibly. Both platinum and palladium are on the United States Geological Survey's 2022 critical minerals list. As a global leader in Platinum Group Metal (PGM) production and recycling, as well as the only producer of primary PGMs in the United States, it is essential to our local communities, Montana, and our national security that the Agencies approve this application.

Sibanye-Stillwater is the lifeblood of our communities in south-central Montana. The company provides excellent paying jobs for nearly 2,000 employees across multiple counties and ultimately contributes over \$6 billion in economic output to Montana. High paying jobs are hard to come by in rural Montana and many families can live and work where they grew up and yet be able to support their families all because of the Sibanye-Stillwater Mine.

I support the conclusion of the CGNF subject matter experts and DEQ in their conclusion that the "studies conducted to date have not established the feasibility of producing a geotechnically stable filtered tailings product that can be transported and placed in a FTSF that will remain free-standing and stable and would result in a reduction in environmental risk." Sibanye-Stillwater and GNA have partnered to research alternative tailings storage technologies, including filtered tailings/dry stacking, for more than twenty years.

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.

Respectfully,



Cindy Berg
PO Box 333 117 E Ave NE
Harlowton, MT 59036
cydberg1960@gmail.com

Gardiner Ranger District
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Custer Gallatin National Forest 