August 9, 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 am an employee of Sibanye-Stillwater residing in south-central Montana and the Agencies’ decision on this permit would directly affect me. 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. If Amendment 004 is not approved, operations at the East Boulder Mine could not continue beyond 2025.

Through 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, while limited the impacts on our environment.

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,

Rebecca Gregorich

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