

July 12, 2023

USDA Forest Service

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



**MONTANA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Dear Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Jones,

The Montana Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest business advocacy organization, representing business sectors that include agriculture, natural resources, manufacturing, and technology. The individual companies that comprise our membership are diverse as well, including sole proprietors to publicly traded companies.

We strongly support 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. 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, Sibanye-Stillwater is essential to our national security.

Additionally, Sibanye-Stillwater is a critical part of Montana's economy, creating safe, good paying jobs across a wide spectrum of businesses and geography. Among the significant economic impacts, Sibanye-Stillwater contributes more than \$6 billion to Montana's economic output, including over \$260 million in payroll taxes, and over \$60 million in direct employee taxes.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce is a leading advocate for economic activity that protects our environment, diversifies our economy, and increases opportunity for all Montanans. Sibanye-Stillwater has a long record of environmental protection, economic contribution to Montana and is significant for our national security.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name 'Todd' is clearly legible, followed by a last name that appears to be 'O'Hair'. The signature is written in a professional but personal manner.

Todd O'Hair, President and CEO
Montana Chamber of Commerce