STILLWATER COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners
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June 16, 2026

Craig Jones
Department of Environmental Quality

Via email: crajones@mt.gov

Dear Mr. Jones,

We are in receipt of your email today regarding Stillwater Mine's proposed major amendment (Amendment 014) inviting input from our standpoint.

The Commission has had the opportunity to recently tour the mine with a focus on the waste storage capacity expansion.

For decades, Stillwater Mine has provided approximately 1/3 of the tax revenue for Stillwater County. This past year, we have seen a significant decrease stemming from layoffs announced in November 2024. With the proposed expansion extending the mine's operational life up to 42 years, we support this project wholeheartedly. The financial impact of the mine further curtailing operations due to infrastructure deficiencies would shift tax burden substantially.

Along with the tax revenue issue, the employment and ancillary business opportunities which Stillwater Mine provides is critical to the county's population and economic viability.

As DEQ is aware, Stillwater Mine has had a stellar track record from an environmental standpoint. The Good Neighbor Agreement initiated in 2000 between the mine and three local citizen conservation groups holds mine operations to environmental standards that are stricter than state and federal laws. We are confident that Stillwater Mine will continue to operate in a manner that honors this agreement.

The Board of County Commissioners of Stillwater County fully support the proposed Amendment 014. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

STILLWATER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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