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First name: Rep. Matthew M.

Last name: Rosendale

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Honorable Randy Moore, Chief

United States Forest Service

United States Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Moore,

The East Boulder Mine, located in Sweet Grass County near McLeod, MT, is in need of a new tailings storage facility as well as a waste rock storage area. I would like to express my support of this expansion as East Boulder will not be able to operate beyond 2025 without these additions.

Owned by Sibanye-Stillwater and connected with Stillwater Mine in Nye, MT, East Boulder produces approximately 240,000 ounces of Platinum Group Metals (PGM) annually. Both mines are the only U.S. primary producers of this critical mineral, and they are the largest producers of primary palladium in the world.

Sibanye-Stillwater provides billions of dollars in economic output for the state of Montana, and it is critical that they maintain operations at both the Nye location and McLeod location for as long as possible. East Boulder Mine specifically has over 500 employees and early closure would be a major detriment to surrounding areas and the state's overall economy. East Boulder is looking to develop the Lewis Gulch Tailings Storage Facility as well as the Dry Fork Waste Rock Storage Area which would add about 13 years to the mine life and ensure operation until 2043.

Sibanye-Stillwater is committed to collaborating with other organizations to research best practices and ensure responsible economic development that minimizes environmental impacts. Research has indicated that filtered tailings are not currently feasible at the East Boulder Mine and so I respectfully ask that the Forest Service grant Sibanye-Stillwater the necessary permit to develop the storage facilities that will be designed to minimize surface disturbance and extend the mine's life. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.

Member of Congress