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First name: Senator Steve

Last name: Daines

Organization:

Title:

Comments: August 03, 2023

Chief Randy Moore

U.S. Forest Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: East Boulder Mine Amendment 004 Draft Environment Impact Statement

Dear Chief Moore,

We write to you today to express our strong support of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the East Boulder Mine issued by the U.S. Forest Service, the Custer Gallatin National Forest and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. We are grateful that Sibanye-Stillwater, as the only primary producer of platinum and palladium in the United States, has put forward an approach that ensures sustainable and responsible mining in Montana.

Sibanye-Stillwater is the lifeblood of many communities in south-central Montana. Not only does Sibanye-Stillwater contribute to the national production of Platinum Group Metal (PGMs), but 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. It is important to note that both platinum and palladium are on the United States Geological Survey's critical minerals list and any reduction of domestic production will increase our dependency on foreign imports. Accordingly, the mine is vital to both Montana communities and our national security.

Through the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), Sibanye-Stillwater and the GNA councils have worked together for over two decades to balance and address environmental and community concerns. We are confident in the ability of these hardworking Montanans to promote positive rural economic development while minimizing impacts on the environment.

We urge you to support continued operations at the East Boulder Mine. We wholeheartedly believe these operations will have beneficial long-term impacts for our rural communities, Montana, and the United States.

Sincerely,

Steve Daines

United States Senator

Jon Tester

United States Senator

Matt M. Rosendale, Sr.

Member of Congress

Ryan K. Zinke

Member of Congress

