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Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

I am strongly in support of Sibanye-Stillwater's proposal for the next phase of tailings and waste rock storage at the East Boulder Mine. Sibanye-Stillwater has a proven record of environmental excellence at both East Boulder and Nye and has rightfully earned the public's trust in this part of the state.

Our society depends on platinum and palladium to keep our air clean. I believe that it would be foolish to significantly diminish our nation's domestic ability to sustainably mine these metals by prematurely shutting down East Boulder's production due to a lack of waste and tailings storage capacity. Tailings and waste rock at East Boulder have been, and can continue to be stored safely in a manner that will not negatively impact the pristine environment. Based on the publicly available material in the proposal, it appears that Sibanye-Stillwater has taken the mandate of protecting the environment and public safety seriously. They have addressed tailings and waste management experts' and the local community's concerns through years of detailed planning, design, and iteration.

Sibanye Stillwater is a critical, and arguably the most critical economic driver in this region of the state. Sibanye-Stillwater employees over 2,000 Montana residents with excellent paying jobs and benefits. These employees subsequently create jobs for thousands of other residents working in local restaurants, stores, and services. The loss of a significant quantity of these 2,000 jobs if the East Boulder Mine is closed would be catastrophic not only for families with members directly employed, but also for entire communities dependent on them.

Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective on this important matter. I greatly appreciate the vital work you are performing during this environmental review process and trust that you will make the decision that is in the best interest of the environment, country, state, and local communities.

Respectfully,
Chase Clausen