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First name: Chad

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Crested Butte has built an economy and a tightly-knit community without needing to undergo harmful and toxic mineral extraction since the coal mines closed in the 1950's.

Take a walk down the residential streets, and you'll see citizens who care for one another and who work, engage, and participate in local commerce without a mine.

Look at our streams, and you'll see an abundance of aquatic life where once there was none. Where once our streams were stained orange, our water is now drinkable. We all know water is life, and we ask that you please not threaten this source for private gain.

Ask our business owners if we need a mine to survive, and they'll tell you they can hardly keep up with demand as it is. A mine would diminish our economy which is based on experiences, not extraction. A mine will drive away all that we have built since we stopped pulling our riches from the ground. Where once the phrase, "You can't eat the views," made sense to the early miners, we have proven this to be false. The landscape, wildlife, recreation, and purity of air and water have driven people to visit here for decades. You can, in fact, eat the views, once the checks are cashed.

The mineral withdrawal is the first step to eliminating this threat to our economy, our environment, and our way of life. I support the Thompson Divide Mineral Withdrawal.

I ask that you respect the voices of our community over the voices of an industry that does not call Crested Butte home.

Thank you.

Chad Reich

Executive Director

High Country Conservation Advocates