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Comments: I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the Sibanye Stillwater's East Boulder proposed TSF expansion. I have lived in Sweet Grass County for most of my life and have experienced times before the mine and during its operation.

The mine employs over 500 people in various occupational specialties. The mine has been a great economic boon for Sweet Grass County. They are currently our largest taxpayer and I believe they are also the largest charitable giving entity in Sweet Grass County. They have been beneficial in numerous ways up to and including, schools, roads, law enforcement, emergency services and other infrastructure needs. I think the most appealing aspect of the mine for me is the fact that they follow the Good Neighbor Agreement to ensure implementation of best practices to minimize and mitigate environmental impacts. A quote from Paul Hawks of the Northern Plains Resource Council, "If we're going to have a mine, it's going to be the best damn mine in the world." As a resident of Sweet Grass County that has had the opportunity to watch it grow, I believe he is correct. I can honestly say that if you didn't know there was a very successful mine in our county, you wouldn't know there was a mine in our county!

The TSF expansion project would keep SSMC operating for approximately 13 more years. The design factors of the proposed TSF have been subjected to extensive environmental baseline studies. The design minimizes surface disturbance and aligns with international best practices on tailings management. The design proposals have been under the scrutiny of the Independent Review Panel as well as the International Tailings Review Board.

I understand the hesitation of some critics concerning the TSF expansion. Those same folks were critics for the introduction of the mine in 1999. The SSMC produces critical precious metals that we use everyday in catalytic converters. It is ironic that they are mining a much-needed mineral in order to help the environment. SSMC also recycles minerals through a smelting process of old catalytic converters. SSMC is a proven company that is willing to step up and listen to environmental concerns. They work closely with the Northern Plains Resource Council and participate in the Good Neighbor Agreement. The ultimate goal is responsible rural economic development through mining.

The East Boulder Mine is a very important part of our community. It provides jobs, students for our schools, workers for other service-related industries and financial support through taxes and charitable giving. Again, the most impressive part to me is, "If you didn't know there was a mine in Sweet Grass County, you wouldn't know there was a mine in Sweet Grass County."

Please approve Amendment 4 of the East Boulder Mine's Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your time.