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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I would like to offer my support for the amendment 4 project for the East Boulder Mine. Not only do I work at the East Boulder mine but I live in the surrounding community. The employees, contractors, and support industries provide a large positive economic influence on the surrounding communities. The mine purchases many of the needed supplies locally and also donates a significant amount of money to local community non-profit groups. A large portion of the tax base for the county of Sweetgrass is paid by the mine and its employees. If amendment 4 were not granted the mine would be dramatically affected and the community would suffer from the loss of funding provided by the mine.

The minerals mined at the East Boulder operation are also very important to the security of the United States. The East Boulder mine is one of two PGM mines in the United States. If the minerals are not mined in the United States they are procured from other countries, one of which is Russia. Purchasing minerals from Russian, a country currently invading its neighbor unprovoked, supplies the government of Russia with much needed funding. The mining operations in Russia are also not held to the strict environmental regulations that the East Boulder operation is held to by the state of Montana and the federal government. We must continue to mine the minerals in the United States to protect the environment and ensure we are not funding nations who do not share the values of the United States.

These reasons I have spoken about are but a few of the reasons that amendment 4 should be granted and the mine allowed to continue its operations. The mining of minerals is key to our economy and the technologies our modern life styles have grown accustomed too. We cannot afford to have these minerals mined elsewhere in the world.

Thank you