Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/24/2025 4:51:01 PM
First name: Stephani
Last name: Horstman
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am firmly against resource extraction in a designated Wilderness Area, specifically the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in this case. There are plenty of private acres in Montana that Hecla could purchase and access without depriving Montanans of our wilderness public lands. This land is also critical habitat for two iconic Montana species, the grizzly bear and bull trout.

I support economic development and resource extraction but only in places where it makes sense. The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is not a place for a mine. Also, many of these mining companies never take accountability for clean-ups, they end up using the corporate veil to mine under a legally separate subsidy and then that subsidy declares bankruptcy after funneling all of the profits to its parent company. If there is a mining disaster, who is going to pay for it? The mining companies rarely if ever do. The cost is attributed to the already over-burdened Montana taxpayer.

There is a place for everything and there are plenty of better places for mining in Montana. I am vehemently opposed to THIS mine in THIS location. Perhaps the Montana legislature could propose bills where mining companies have to give the state of Montana a billion dollars in a deposit that will be returned once the mine has completed a thorough and successful reclamation once the valuable resources have been extracted. If this could be done, I would have a lot more confidence in Hecla to do right by Montanans.