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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a parent/grandparent I believe our children's education is a major factor for creating a successful society for the future. To be able to do that our children/grandchildren need to be able to go into an education setting where they will be safe, protected and adequately taught. This is a process that requires school safety, building maintenance, the ability to employ teacher's who have not only graduated from school, but who actually care about the future generations, who are willing to stay at one school and not be forced to jump from job to job just to be able to raise their own family also. Teachers need to be compensated, teacher's need to be able to have the tools to teach, teacher's need to be able to know that the building they are in is safe, that the kids are a priority and that the community is behind them and will do what they can to support them. Unfortunately, our school district cannot say this about many of these things. Unfortunately, our school building is deteriorating and the school bonds for a new school building have not passed due to the fact that many of our community members are retired and cannot afford to have their taxes go up every year. They believe in the school, they believe in the children of our community, but unfortunately, they just cannot afford to continue to live in their community on their retirement incomes and support large school bonds to build a new school.

When my daughter started at Park City in the second grade they were proposing a new high school, she graduated 4 years ago and they still have not gotten a new high school. Park City Schools have been an afterthought for Stillwater County because the school board opted out of the mine funds years ago. A school board choose not to participate in the mine funds, believing that the mine was not going to be as big of an impact on the community as it has proven to be over the decades.

The school districts that did participate have all seen positive impacts from the mine support, but when Park City School Board approached Stillwater County to reconsider their exclusion, they were told there was no way to go back and change the decision that was made years ago. There has been no consideration that the decision was made by a school board who NEVER expected the mine to survive and support as many families as it has. The other factor that should be considered is that the mine support for the schools should be able to reviewed and reconsidered as the previous decisions were made by generations that, may not even still be residing in the area, let alone have school age children attending our school, that is bursting at the seams.

I believe that every consideration should be afforded to any education and encouragement for our children/grandchildren, as they will be our future leaders and don't we want to raise children who will love our communities and consider staying near or in their hometowns instead of moving out of state or out of our area/county to be able to get their children a better education?

Members of my family, including by husband have put blood, sweat and tears into their jobs at the mine to be able to support those that they love, but without the ability to work at a job such as the mine the communities in our area will struggle and suffer financially and with the loss of neighbors, friends and loved ones.