

March 14, 2007

Hon. Vice Chair Janna Taylor
House Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT

Since I cannot attend and testify before the House Appropriations Committee meeting on March 16, 2007 at which it is my understanding that HB 7 will be heard, I'd like this letter to be placed on the record in support of the bill.

I appeal to your Committee to vote in the affirmative on this important bill. If adopted and signed by the Governor, this bill will provide critical funding for the Flathead Basin Commission's important work in leading the effort to prevent British Columbia mining interests from developing massive open pit mining projects in the sensitive North Fork Flathead River Basin. I believe the impact of the BC mines, if approved, will do irreparable harm to fish, wildlife, water quality and natural resources in the Flathead Basin; will be devastating to the economy of the Basin; and a major blow to the economy of the State of Montana.

The only effective way to impact a British Columbia decision to permit mining in the Flathead Basin is to demonstrate factually the environmental and economic impacts of such decisions and mobilize public opinion and local, state and federal political officials against the BC policy and projects. Your Committee can take the first important step in this process by funding the Flathead Basin Commission's work.

I respectfully ask that you approve HB 7.

Respectfully,