

Flathead County
Board of Commissioners
(406) 758-5503

Joseph D. Brenneman
Gary D. Hall
Dale W. Lauman



January 9, 2007

Dear Flathead Legislators:

The Flathead County Commissioners unanimously endorse the Flathead Basin Commission's legislative request for an appropriation which would provide funding for critically needed baseline data in the North Fork, travel monies to ensure that Montana would have the opportunity to fully participate in the environmental assessment processes related to the Cline mine and other mining applications in British Columbia, and support for an environmental specialist to coordinate Montana's effort related to both environmental assessments for mining applications, as well as the ongoing BC/MT negotiation to finalize the trans-boundary Memorandum of Understanding between the province and the State of Montana.

We believe that this funding is imperative to safeguard the economic and environmental integrity of water quality and other natural resources. If we miss this opportunity to gather baseline water quality data, we will forego the opportunity to demonstrate cause and effect in the event that the Cline coal mining application is approved. If we fail to fully participate in the environmental assessment processes being undertaken in British Columbia, we will miss a critical opportunity to ensure that these processes take Montana's interests into account. Therefore, the legislative request is a small price to pay in light of the natural amenities at stake.

It is our understanding that House Representative Cordier is carrying LC 1765, with the support and co-sponsorship of Dr. Jones. Senator Brueggeman will be sponsor LC 1765 in the Senate, along with co-sponsors Barkus and Weinberg. We support the Flathead Basin Commission's legislative request, and encourage all members of the Flathead Delegation to join legislators Cordier, Jones, Brueggeman, Barkus and Weinberg in co-sponsoring and actively supporting LC1765.

Thank you.

FLATHEAD COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Joseph D. Brenneman, Chairman


Gary D. Hall, Member


Dale W. Lauman, Member