



MAY. 20. 2004 11:30AM
TO: KALISPELL

NO. 1655 P. 1/1



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

05 MAY 20 AM 7:46

MAY 19 2004

Dear Senator Baucus:

This is in response to your letter of April 30 concerning the plans of Cline Mining Corporation to develop a coal mine on Cabin Creek in the Flathead River Basin. A review of a similar project by the International Joint Commission (IJC) in 1988 concluded that such a mine would constitute a breach of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty.

The United States Government has informed the Government of Canada that we consider that the IJC's previous analysis and conclusions on development in the Flathead River Basin still stands. However, we will continue to monitor this situation as it develops over time. Both you and your staff should feel free to contact us directly for updates.

I hope this information proves useful to you.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Max Baucus,
United States Senate.