



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN - 4 2018

The Honorable
Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your November 27, 2017 letter stating your concerns regarding the potential effects on Montana's economy and public health from mining operations in British Columbia. The Department of State is committed to addressing concerns of potential impacts to communities and livelihoods that share water resources such as the Kootenai River watershed.

The Department has spearheaded action on this important issue. Our Canadian Affairs Director Cynthia Kierscht led an interagency delegation to the October semi-annual meetings of the International Joint Commission (IJC) in Ottawa. She raised the issue with Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director of the Division of U.S. Transboundary Affairs of Global Affairs Canada. Ms. Kierscht highlighted U.S. concerns regarding transboundary mining impacts on the United States and secured a commitment from Global Affairs Canada to engage in a bilateral review of gaps and limitations in current efforts on this issue. The Department will lead this review process with interagency, tribal, and stakeholder input. We expect to share findings from our bilateral review with Global Affairs Canada at the April 2018 IJC meetings. We welcome your input as we move forward.

To strengthen our engagement, the Department established an interagency workgroup co-chaired with the EPA to coordinate our actions and communicate our concerns to the Canadian government. The EPA, through regular engagement with Montana agencies, is able to bring their perspective into the interagency process. We are happy to keep you informed of developments.

We appreciate Montana's desire to maintain regular and structured transboundary cooperation on the management of our shared waters. We equally share your interest in working with Canada to identify practical solutions to these issues that are of great concern to Tribes, governments, and stakeholders on both sides of the border. We look forward to continue working with you on this common effort. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Waters
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN - 4 2018

The Honorable
Steve Bullock
Governor
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Bullock:

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Sincerely,

Mary K. Waters
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs



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Incoming

Approved: WHA/FO – Kenneth Merten (ok)

Drafted: WHA/CAN – Miriam Murray, 5-1883; 202-436-6857

Cleared:

- WHA/CAN – Cindy Kierscht (ok)
- WHA/CAN – Mark Cullinane (ok)
- WHA/PPC – Thomas Jeffrey (ok)
- L/OES – Hannah Lobel (ok)
- H – Janelle Guest-Baker (ok)
- P – Lorelei Snyder (ok)
- D – Jen Neidhart de Ortiz (ok)
- S/P – Kim Breier (ok)
- EmbOttawa – Ellen Dunlap (ok)
- ConVancouver – Geoff Reid (ok)
- EPA/OITA – Pam Teel (ok)
- EPA/Region 8 – Ayn Schmit (ok)
- EPA/Region 10 – Patty McGrath (ok)
- DOI – Ryan Close (ok)
- E – Rob Cavese (info by request)

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Regarding the potential effects on Montana's economy and public health from mining operations in British Columbia.

H20171211=000

Tester (Gov. Bullock)

01/02/2018

Faulkner



Waters



Cleared by:

Janelle Guest-Bakker
Dannielle Andrews

Harris, Amanda M

From: H Taskers <dont_reply_SP2010@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Harris, Amanda M
Subject: H Task Clearance (P) has completed on H20171211=000 Tester-Multi-signer (Gov. Bullock) letter regarding transboundary water issues which negatively impact Montana's economy and potentially, public health (Lake Kooconusa which straddles the U.S. and Canadi

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H Task Clearance (P) on H20171211=000 Tester-Multi-signer (Gov. Bullock) letter regarding transboundary water issues which negatively impact Montana's economy and potentially, public health (Lake Kooconusa which straddles the U.S. and Canadian border. has successfully completed. All participants have completed their tasks.

Approved by Guest-Bakker, Janelle R

Approved by Andrews, Dannielle R

[View the workflow history.](#)