



## **Flathead Coalition**

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### **Statement of Rose Schwennesen, Vice President of the Flathead Coalition**

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The Flathead Coalition applauds the State Department for supporting Montana's request for a comprehensive assessment of the transboundary region prior to any coalfield development activities.

The Canadian government needs to accept a role and responsibility as well, rather than simply defer to British Columbia. This is an international watershed protected by international treaty, and that is the domain of the federal governments.

We encourage state, provincial and federal officials from both nations to meet for a few days around a campfire in the North Fork Flathead Valley. That's the type of real-world setting that could help everyone appreciate why these wild, clean waters, fish and wildlife are so important for local communities. Once they do that, it may not be so difficult to reach an agreement that maintains these values for future generations.

Contact: Rose Schwennesen, 837-2575, Vice President  
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[www.flatheadcoalition.org](http://www.flatheadcoalition.org)

*International neighbors working for clean water, healthy habitat and thriving communities.*