

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

January 20, 2006

The Honorable Gordon Campbell
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Station Provincial Government
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E1
Canada

Mr. John van Dongen
Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations
P.O. Box 9061, Station Provincial Government
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2
Canada

Dear Premier Campbell and Minister van Dongen,

Thank you both once again for the gracious reception you gave us last September in Vancouver and for your interest and attention given to the Crown of the Continent region. Thanks to you, John, for participating in my Energy Symposium in Bozeman in October.

I also very much appreciate the attendance of BC officials at the Flathead Basin Commission's December meeting, and the news from Regional Manager Kathy Eichenberger that the Cline mine must undergo the application process associated with large mines was especially welcome. I believe this to be a most appropriate time for our state and your province to hold face-to-face meetings to begin to finalize the MOU and explore potential win-win solutions that focus on protecting the ecological integrity of the transboundary Flathead, while at the same time exploring economic development opportunities beneficial to British Columbia.

To this end, I have requested that Mike Volesky of my staff, Art Compton of the Department of Environmental Quality and Rich Moy of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, along with a small committee of Flathead Basin Commission members, make themselves available to meet with British Columbia representatives to begin the process to finalize the MOU that implements the Environmental Cooperative Arrangement that was signed by Governor Martz and yourself on September 2003. Montana has already submitted suggested modifications to the draft MOU based on my February 7, 2005 letter to you. We would also like to hear about items or issues that Montana could put on the table as part of a broader strategy for protecting the transboundary region. Our congressional delegation has assured us that they are willing to work with us to accomplish any solution that requires U.S. federal action.

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The Flathead River Basin is an icon of enormous importance to both the United States and Canada. I believe that citizens on both sides of the border have a strong desire to ensure the protection of Glacier National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park, Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park, the federally designated Wild and Scenic Flathead River, and the greater Crown of the Continent region. The area has received a number of international designations, including International Peace Park and World Heritage site. The United States and Montana have recognized the area's attributes over the past 95 years by protecting more than 3.3 million acres in the Crown of the Continent region in Montana. Besides Glacier National Park, this region includes four large wilderness areas, many roadless areas, and several wildlife refuges.

A part of these discussions would include fashioning the framework for conducting a baseline assessment of the transboundary Flathead in Montana and British Columbia prior to any major resource developments on either side of the border. Montana and agencies of the U.S. government have indicated a willingness to help finance such an assessment consistent with the recent recommendations of a bi-national science workshop that focused on this area.

Also I would very much appreciate inclusion of this group I have appointed in consultations about the terms of reference for the environmental review and analysis of Cline Mining Corporation's proposed Foisey/Lodgepole mine. We would respectfully request that you and the Province work first with us to explore possible win-win solutions and finalization of the MOU between Montana and British Columbia before entering the pre-application stage.

Let me also renew my invitation to meet with you in this area at your earliest convenience to view it together via helicopter, and discuss it first hand. I very much look forward to being able to join together with you to sign a mutually beneficial document as a result of these discussions.

Please contact Mike Volesky at 406-444-7857 for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

IJC Co-Chairman Schornack
IJC Co-Chairman Gray
MLA Bill Bennett
Rich Moy, Montana DNRC
Art Compton, Montana DEQ