December 15, 2014

Office of the Governor
Attn. Governor Steve Bullock
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Bullock:

The MT DEQ Remediation Division and the EPA updated the community on the status of contamination and clean up at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site at a public meeting on December 11, 2014 in Columbia Falls. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 concerned citizens.

The Council encourages the listing of the site on the National Priorities List. The Council recognizes the importance of the process, particularly the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. As the owner of the property has elected to end negotiations with MT DEQ, DEQ and EPA must ensure that remediation and cleanup will occur in a timely manner. Please support the listing of this site on the National Priorities List to ensure that the process will continue as needed.

The City Council, on behalf of the community, express their desire to see the site cleaned up, preventing the spread of groundwater contaminants. Providing clean, safe drinking water is important to the Council and to that end, the City has made significant investments in providing safe drinking water to the citizens of Columbia Falls. While the testing of the City's well have not revealed that the known contaminants from the CFAC site have made their way into the City's drinking water supply as of now, the City would not like to see cleanup and remedial action delayed until the City is faced with costly emergency measures to protect the City's water supply.

Also important, is the redevelopment of the CFAC site to provide long-term, sustainable employment and development in the community.

Please note the City Council's support of the listing of the CFAC site on the National Priorities List.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Barnhart, Mayor