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FLATHEAD LAKERS

Flathead Lakers:
Working for clean water, a healthy ecosystem, and lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed.

July 31, 2014

Dan Barnhart, Mayor
City of Columbia Falls
130 6th St West, Room A
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Dear Mayor Barnhart:

The Flathead Lakers support your efforts to engage the State of Montana and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in further investigation of contamination and in clean up the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) smelter site and surrounding property.

The Flathead Lakers is a nonprofit organization working for clean water, healthy ecosystems, and lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed. Our organization was founded in 1958 and currently has 1,500 members.

Flathead Lake and its tributaries' clean waters are a valuable asset that contribute to the quality of life and economic vitality of local communities, Flathead and Lake counties, and Montana.

The site's location adjacent to Cedar Creek and the Flathead River, and over shallow groundwater, raises concerns about present and long-term impacts to surface water and groundwater and about potential downstream contamination. EPA's preliminary assessment showed cyanide, manganese, and other metals present in both Cedar Creek and the Flathead River, and cyanide contamination of groundwater at the site and in nearby residential wells.

Since the results of EPA's preliminary assessment showed significant contamination at the site and indication that contaminants are moving beyond the site via surface water and groundwater, we believe it is imperative to proceed as quickly as possible with further investigation and remediation. We support the most expedient and effective response.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that the CFAC site is restored to protect Flathead waters and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

Greg

Robin

Greg McCormick
President

Robin Steinkraus
Executive Director

cc: Governor Steve Bullock and:

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Jenny Chambers, DEQ Remediation Division Administrator
Rob Parker, EPA Site Assessment Manager
Julie Dalsoglio, EPA Montana Director
Senator Jon Tester
Senator John Walsh
Representative Steve Daines
Flathead County Board of Commissioners
State Senator Dee Brown