RYAN K. ZINKE
MONTANA AT-LARGE

113 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3211

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2600

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Capitol Station
P. O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Bullock:

As a Whitefish native, I grew up fifteen minutes from Columbia Falls. I recall a time when the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) employed hundreds of local workers who were active members of the community. The plant was an integral component of our very way of life. I would like to see this site restored and revitalized for the betterment of not only the Flathead Valley, but all of Montana.

CFAC has taken the initiative to make this revitalization a reality. Their plan to expeditiously and effectively complete the Columbia Falls Aluminum Site investigation is in Montana's best interests. CFAC has hired a competent contractor, Roux Associates, to develop a Remediation Investigation Work Plan and is in contact with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enter into an Administrative Order on Consent. I applaud CFAC for taking the necessary steps to restore the site and its productivity.

Therefore, I respectfully oppose the site being placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Being listed will significantly delay much-needed economic development for the Columbia Falls area. Historically, NPL listings in Montana have not resulted in expeditious resolutions; instead, they have faced excessive delays and bureaucracy. Our state has eighteen Superfund sites, yet not a single one has been removed in the life of the program. I believe we should revise the path forward. I urge you to support CFAC's efforts to complete their analysis before allowing the EPA to place the site on the NPL.

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to work with you further on this issue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER