JON TESTER
MONTANA

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

SENATE HART BUILDING
SUITE 706
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2644

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:
http://tester.senate.gov/contact

January 8, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing regarding the recent decision by Glencore to withdraw from negotiations with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MTDEQ) about the remediation for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site in Columbia Falls, Montana. I am deeply troubled by this recent development.

Your regional office has been conducting remedial investigations on the site in Columbia Falls. This investigation has revealed cyanide and minerals leaching into the groundwater at the location, which abuts the Flathead River. This situation is of great concern to the community. It is time to begin the process to return the site to a productive state. Absent agreement from Glencore and the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company to accept responsibility for their role in the cleanup efforts, I encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to proceed with a national priority listing under national Superfund laws. Such a designation would meet the community's desire to move the project forward while creating jobs.

The community of Columbia Falls is adjacent to the "crown jewel" of the National Park System, Glacier National Park. The Park hosts over two million visitors annually. It is imperative that we not allow Glencore's refusal to negotiate with MTDEQ to threaten the watershed and surrounding communities.

I urge you and Governor Bullock to list this project on the Superfund priority listing so work can begin to ensure this site can be returned to a productive and safe state. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

BOZEMAN (406) 586-4450 | BUTTE (406) 723-3277 | GLENDIVE (406) 365-2391 | GREAT FALLS (406) 452-9585 | HELENA (406) 449-5401 | KALISPELL (406) 257-3360
BILLINGS (406) 252-0550 | MISSOULA (406) 728-3003