

2/2/07

House Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 472
Helena, MT 59620

RE: **Support House Bill 271**

Honorable Chairman and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

Stillwater Mining Company would like to go on record in support of House Bill 271 for the following reasons.

- The existing law does not specify the expertise or background for 3 of the 7 members appointed to the Board of Environmental Review.
- The Board of Environmental Review's rule making authority can have significant consequences on Montana's business and industries.
- The scope of the Board of Environmental Review's authority includes scientific and technology related issues.
- Members appointed to the Board of Environmental Review need expertise or background in the technical, scientific fields or industry being regulated.
- Appropriate expertise or background is needed on the Board of Environmental Review consistent with its rule making authority.
- Public policy and rule making based on proven science and technology is supported by Stillwater Mining Company.

Stillwater Mining Company supports House Bill 271 to specify the expertise or background for all members appointed to the Board of Environmental Review.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gilbert
Director of Environmental & Governmental Affairs
Stillwater Mining Company