

FEB 14 2007

February 12, 2007

EXHIBIT 19
DATE 2-20-07
HB 529

House Taxation Committee
State Capitol, Room 152
Helena, MT 59620

RE: **Support House Bill 529**

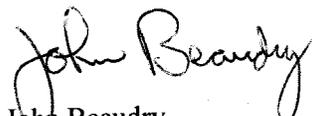
Honorable Chairman and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

Stillwater Mining Company would like to go on record in support of House Bill 529 for the following reasons.

- Reductions in the business equipment tax rate have been beneficial to the Company in increasing it's workforce to more than 1,700 employees.
- In addition to individual income taxes all employees pay, Stillwater Mining Company currently pays over \$11 million of property and other taxes in Montana per year.
- In an effort to remain sustainable, Stillwater Mining Company has created a miner training program at its own expense, approximately \$5 Million per year.
- Stillwater Mining Company has initiated a transformation in its mining methods in support of the long term sustainability objective by lowering production costs.
- The Company has also initiated an international marketing strategy for palladium through the creation of the Palladium Alliance International to bolster the demand for the metal.
- Workers compensation and health insurance costs continue to increase and threaten the sustainability of the job creation experienced over the past 20 years of operations at Stillwater Mining Company.
- Reductions in the business equipment tax will help with the cost of training and maintaining the workforce, transforming mining methods, marketing palladium, covering workers compensation and health insurance increases all in support of the long term objective of sustainability of the Company.

Stillwater Mining Company supports House Bill 529 to reduce the tax rate for class eight business equipment taxes.

Sincerely,



John Beaudry
Public Affairs Manager
Stillwater Mining Company

1321 Discovery Drive
Billings, Montana 59102



telephone 406.373.8700
facsimile 406.373.8701
www.stillwatermining.com