

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Carolyn Adams of Helena, formerly of Whitehall and representing myself. I oppose this bill!!!

I grew up in Whitehall and am the fifth generation of my family to live in the Whitehall area as my great great grandfather arrived in 1865 and later named the town of Whitehall. I have seen firsthand the changes to the landscape that the Golden Sunlight Mine has made. I know full well about the 13 major cyanide leaks and spills that have occurred since the mines inception, about the 3 neighboring landowners and veterinary clinic whose wells were contaminated, that test wells have revealed cyanide levels far exceeding the human health standard. My parents' home was east of Whitehall and after the mine went in we lived in dread of their well being contaminated by cyanide. I say enough is enough. It is enough that the Golden Sunlight mine will continue to operate and that their ore will continue to be processed by cyanide. It is enough that the water pollution from this mine will be perpetual but please do not increase the amount of ore that can be processed here thus increasing the risk of more cyanide contamination.

205 years ago Lewis and Clark traveled up the Jefferson River through this valley which Lewis described as a "beautiful level plain, with land that is fertile that ascends gradually on both sides to high mountains. The river is crowded with fish and waterfowl, the banks crowded with deer." I wonder how they would describe this area in 200 years or even 100 years – as a wasteland? With the groundwater and river polluted with cyanide? We talk about Montana's natural resources – coal, oil, gold – but our most precious and valuable resource for years to come is our water – and for that reason please abide by the will of the people of Montana, twice expressed, that they do not want any increase in cyanide heap leach processing. Please oppose this bill. Thank you.