EXHIBIT 20 (1)
DATE 3/23/11
SB 306

Mr Chairman & Representatives,

My name is Chris Brick, I'm the Science Director of the Clark Fork Coalition, representing our 3,000 members who oppose SB 306 because it's a threat to clean water. I've been an exploration geologist in the mining industry, so I'm not anti-mining, but I'm extremely frustrated by the disregard the mining industry has shown in many instances concerning the environment in Montana.

This morning I attended a meeting with the US Forest Service concerning reclamation of the Beal Mine. This mine, when it was permitted in the 1980's was touted as an example of an environmentally friendly safe mine - as a new day in mining. Sadly, it's been anything but. On paper, it looked fine. But through a series of careless errors, a woefully inadequate bond, and a bankrupt mining company, it's now a $42 Million liability for taxpayers. That's $42 M ~~that~~ from the FS, that doesn't ~~really~~ exist. Year-by-year the agencies try fixes to keep this from becoming an outright disaster.

This bill is yet another attempted end-run around the voters will on I-137.

(Chris Brick, continued)

(2)

This bill is yet another attempted end-run around the voters will on I-137 in 1998 + I-747 in 2004. Cyanide leaching is ultimately a failed technology — the industry knows this, and they're innovating — trying other techniques that we hope will be safer. Let's not continue or encourage ANY more use of cyanide, anywhere. And let's not open the door to huge open pits that would truck one across the state. Let's wait until we're SURE we can do mining right. Please vote NO on SB 306.