WATER POLICY INTERIM
COMMITTEE 2019-20

October 13, 2020 Exhibit 20

From: Rick Bass
To: Mohr, Jason
Cc: Michael Jamison
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Selenium dumping
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:25:41 PM

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October 8, 2020

I'm writing to urge the state of Montana to protect our water. In the face of global warming, even in northwest Montana, we can no longer take our once-plentiful and once-clean water for granted. From the USFS' proposed Black Ram timber sale's clearcutting atop the U..S. headwaters of the Yaak River, dewatering ancient forests and robbing untold hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water from the Yaak River, to the threat of dewatering alpine wilderness lakes such as Cliff Lakes by the proposed Rock Creek mine, to the bioaccumulation of Teck Coal's selenium slurry into the Koocanusa Reservoir and subsequently the Kootenai River, stacking up against a dam that cannot hold that mass forever, the integrity of Lincoln County's water appears to not even be going to the highest bidder, but simply going. I ask the state of Montana to intervene and take decisive action to protect Lincoln County's water—which, it will be remembered, is Montana's water, and a Constitutional birthright as well as Constitutional responsibility. Action and leadership is needed yesterday. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Bass