



October 8, 2020

Montana Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 7186
Missoula, Montana 59807

The Honorable Zach Brown
Chairman, Water Policy Interim Committee
Montana State Legislature
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620-1706

Re: Proposed Selenium Site Specific Standards for Lake Koocanusa and Kootenai River

Dear Chairman Brown and Members of the Committee,

Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU) works to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. With more than 4,200 members represented by thirteen local chapters around the state of Montana, our organization supports conservation projects that benefit fish, wildlife, and people. That's why MTU is proud to support the proposed rule making process, and draft rule, for a site-specific standard for Selenium in Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River.

MTU has carefully followed the development of the proposed Selenium standards through the more than five-year long process that has been led by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in collaboration with other states and Canada. That process has been thorough, fair, transparent, collaborative, and has provided more than adequate opportunity for public engagement. The proposed rule is grounded in the best science available, and it will give the State of Montana the ability to protect its water quality, world class coldwater fishery resources, and the communities that they support. We urge this Committee to add its support to the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, or if you need additional information regarding the comments that we have submitted (via email at clayton@montanatu.org or by phone at 406-543-0054). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

David Brooks
Executive Director
Montana Trout Unlimited

Clayton Elliott
Conservation Director
Montana Trout Unlimited