

January 31, 2023

Public Comment for House Bill 2 – Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, & Justice

**Natural Resource Damage Program**

➤ “Committee Members,

On behalf of the Clark Fork Coalition, I'm writing to support the funding request of HB2 related to the Montana DOJ's Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP). The NRDP has been enormously successful in assessing large-scale injuries to Montana's natural resources and pursuing damages to restore or replace those injured resources on behalf of all Montanans. The NRDP was instrumental in assessing, pursuing and recovering damages for injuries to the Clark Fork watershed caused by historical mining activities, and it's safe to say that ongoing restoration of our watershed would be nowhere near as complete without NRDP's efforts. But to remain vigilant and effective in its mission, NRDP needs continued funding support. As NRDP's past successes illustrate, any money invested in this program pays dividends for Montanans and the natural resources that belong to all of us. Please support NRDP's funding request.”

-Andrew Gorder