



Dear Minister of Mines:

The 13 undersigned Skagit River Basin craft breweries, distilleries, and beer industry businesses are writing to express our strong opposition to the mineral exploration permit in the Silverdaisy Area submitted by Imperial Metals that is currently pending before the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources.

Water is one of the most valuable resources to our businesses, our communities, and the pristine wildernesses we enjoy. Here in Washington state, we pride ourselves in having a robust and high-quality beer industry. One of the main reasons for this is the high-quality mountain water we use as the base for our products. Not only that but much of the malted barley used in our beer is grown and malted in the Skagit River Basin, an ingredient essential to brewing beer and many distillation processes. We depend on these resources and mining upstream directly puts them in danger.

Our source of clean and safe water from the Skagit River is threatened by the pending mining permit. Logging and mining are well known to increase sediment, water temperatures, and threats of contaminants in downstream areas which would impact water quality and aquatic species downstream. Even exploratory drilling has been shown to release copper. Copper can be lethal to fish and aquatic invertebrates at relatively small concentrations and negatively affect downstream water quality. Recent studies have found that copper has substantial sublethal impacts to fish at levels that were previously considered safe. This sensitivity is greatest where water quality is excellent.

In addition to the unacceptable impacts to fish, wildlife and water resources downstream and violation of an international treaty, there is great concern over the past record of Imperial Metals with respect to compliance safety and accountability. Their permit applicant's record is poor considering the August 2014 Mount Polley mine tailings pond spill which was one of the largest environmental disasters in Canadian history.

The failed tailings dam forced 24 million cubic meters of mine waste, containing mercury, arsenic, selenium, copper, and other heavy metals over 12 hours into Hazeltine Creek. The contaminated mine waste ultimately entered Quesnel Lake—the source of drinking water for residents of Likely, BC, and home to about a quarter of the province's sockeye salmon population.

We were happy to hear the announcement from former Minister of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development Doug Donaldson and returning Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman one year ago halting the clearcut logging sales in the Skagit Headwaters in direct response to opposition from Canada and downstream residents in Washington State. He released the following statement:

“Effective immediately, BC Timber Sales will no longer award timber licenses in the Silverdaisy area, ensuring no additional commercial forest harvesting occurs in that area. “We’ve heard loud and clear from individuals and groups on both sides of the border that logging should stop in the Silverdaisy, and we’re making sure that commercial timber harvesting in that area does not continue.”

We encourage you to come to a similar decision with respect to the pending mining permit in the same area. We understand that as a result of the recent election, there are several new ministers in key offices that will be important to resolving the pending mining permit from Imperial Metal's Giant Copper project and ensuring that the "donut hole" area in the Skagit Headwaters continues to be under a moratorium for logging and hopefully gains permanent protection.

Ultimately, we hope to see the vision and promise of the High Ross Treaty between the United States and Canada implemented by the US/Canada Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission be realized through pursuing the protection of the remaining unprotected area of the trans-boundary Skagit watershed (i.e., the donut hole). Acquiring mineral and timber rights in the watershed is a key part of SEEC's charter and mission. This would establish a conservation legacy that would be remembered for decades on both sides of the border.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barker
Co-Owner
Terramar Brewing & Distilling (Edison, WA)

Scott Sell
Director of Operations
Westland Distillery

Eric Buist
Marketing Manager
Skagit Valley Malting

Kurt Ahrens
Owner
North Sound Brewing Co.

Derek Wyckoff
Owner
192 Brewing Company

Bill Voigt
Owner
Birdsview Brewing Company

Amber Watts & Ron Extract
Owners
Garden Path Fermentation

Ron Newman
Owner
Skagit River Brewing Co

Mari & Will Kemper
Owners
Chuckanut Brewing Co (Bellingham)

Katie King
Owner
Temperate Habits Brewing

Todd Owsley
Owner
Farmstrong Brewing Company
Ragged & Right Cider Project

John Kochendorfer
Head Brewer
District Brewing Company