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To: Newprosperityreview [CEAA]

Subject: Closing Remarks Submission

I think it is time for some new leadership in the region and this Province when all they can provide the public is short term thinking and planning. If this mine is the only thing that can save the region and Province's economy as various mayors and MLA's have stated then we were in trouble a long time ago. I know that a few elections ago we elected a new Mayor because many of us were hopeful we would be electing someone to help us develop a long-term and sustainable vision for community growth - after all its the 21st Century not the 1800's anymore. How disappointing that we are still talking about and wasting our public dollars on yet another Taseko Mine proposal that is short on details and long on adverse accumulative affects on the environment, wildlife, wilderness and cultural tourism and First Nations Cultural and Spiritual values as well as "local business" values. If Taseko had been listening at any time during this long, drawn out process (did I mention at public expense) they would have understood the cultural significance of the area and its enduring assets in the first place and the direction the community has taken for sustainable economic development.

I spoke at the hearings and shared my knowledge about the proven and enduring wilderness tourism industry in the Xenigwet'in Caretaker Area (XGCA) as well as the many opportunities the community (the region) had to build on using their assets and develop their cultural tourism opportunities; opportunities that were identified by the Province back in the 1990's but have lacked any will of government to support. In stead of supporting sound economic development ideas, supported by communities and proven sustainable and enduring our governments are instead pouring our hard earned tax dollars into short term plans with massive and negative consequences on our fresh water, wetlands, wildlife especially our grizzly bears and wild horses, salmon and other aquatic species and cancels any other economic opportunities we may have had for the XGCA.

The mine is insulting to state "experts" were misinforming the public about the New Prosperity proposal - you have only to look at the damage in other communities, despair created in families, increase in drug and alcohol abuse and the high job turn over in the mining industry to know that this is not an industry of "happy workers". Since Taseko Mines hosted open houses back in the 1990's their press releases have reported numerous statistics on how many jobs this project would create - in any given year it could have been 300 - 1200 and as most recently expressed 700+/-.

After sitting in on many presentations over the past few weeks I can firmly state that I do not support the New Prosperity Mine Proposal. Its name is offensive, its plan is offensive and the decision to waste hard earned public dollars and time on this process yet again was extremely offensive. This mine proposal will negatively affect the community's ability to retain its existing, enduring and diverse economy and build on its assets for a strong, sustainable, diverse economy for future generations.

Nancy Oppermann

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