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SENATE RUSSELL BUILDING  
SUITE 204  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-2644

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:  
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

# United States Senate

August 3, 2007

Andy Inglis  
Chief Executive of Energy and Exploration  
1 St. James's Square  
London, SW1Y 4PD  
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Inglis:

I am writing you to express my serious reservations and opposition to BP Canada Energy Company's (hereafter BP) recent proposal to begin coal-bed methane exploration in the headwaters of the Flathead River located in southeastern British Columbia.

The Flathead River is a transboundary river: approximately 1/3 of the watershed is located in British Columbia, while the majority of the river is located within my home state of Montana. The Montana portion of the Flathead River forms the western boundary of Glacier National Park and is widely recognized as the wildest and most pristine river in the continental United States.

I oppose this project for several reasons. The trans-boundary Flathead is one of the most biologically important places on earth. As the meeting point of the northern and southern Rockies, Pacific Northwest, and Great Plains ecosystems, the biodiversity of plants and animals is unparalleled. As a member of the United States Senate, I have the privilege to serve on the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on National Parks. This committee provides oversight and protection of America's National Parks, of which Glacier National Park is a crown jewel. The ecological integrity of Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park is dependant upon honoring a long history of cooperation and friendship between the U.S. and Canada as noted by the designation of Waterton-Glacier as an International Peace Park. Development on either side of the border that would interfere with this relationship causes concern.

The valley is home to a free-flowing river with exceptional water quality and native trout species, such as the Bull Trout which is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The pristine habitat of the Flathead Basin provides crucial wildlife populations for Montana and Canadian sportsmen and women. Hunting and fishing are part of our way of life in the Northern Rockies, and I oppose any project in the trans-boundary Flathead that adversely impacts these populations.

As a Montana Senator, it is my belief that your company's proposal represents an unacceptable level of risk to Montana water quality, native trout populations, and the ecological integrity of Glacier National Park. There is no proven methodology for the re-injection of toxic discharge water into this type of geological formation; the required network of roads will increase siltation

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(406) 586-4450

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(406) 723-3277

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and result in the impairment of native trout spawning habitat; and recent wildlife data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services provides decisive evidence of serious, adverse impacts to wildlife habitat in existing coal-bed methane fields located within sensitive ecosystems in the Rocky Mountain West.

My opposition to your proposal is also based on the fact that the existing designations provided to the Flathead River under federal and Montana environmental protection legislation would preclude regulatory approval of your company's proposal in the downstream portion of the watershed that is located within the U.S. The Flathead River is designated as a Wild and Scenic River; a class A-1 waterway under the Federal Clean Water Act, and is managed as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) under the Montana Water Act. These designations, which are the highest protective designations under U.S. law, clearly demonstrate the inappropriate land use for the Flathead that coal-bed methane represents. Additionally, the entire Flathead Basin (3,600 square miles, 9324 square km) has no historical or existing energy extraction activities within its boundaries. As a result, Flathead Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in the western United States, is one of the least impaired temperate lakes on earth.

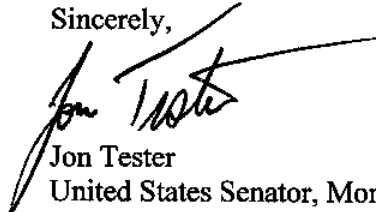
I simply believe that coal-bed methane is an inappropriate activity in this special place. As a lifelong farmer I understand that different landscapes have different values and best uses. My hometown of Big Sandy is located in the center of what Montanans call the Golden Triangle. The Golden Triangle is one of the best places in America to grow dry-land grains, but my family and neighbors can't grow sugar beets here, nor should we try. The value of the Flathead landscape is found in its pristine water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest products—not industrial energy extraction.

**It is my understanding that public outreach has taken place in British Columbia, but not in Montana. I respectfully request public meetings to be held immediately in the Montana Flathead to answer questions from my constituents. I also call for immediate participation and cooperation in base-line scientific data collection to assess current water quality and wildlife populations in the trans-boundary Flathead to adequately measure the affects that energy development would have in the area.**

On behalf of my constituents in the Flathead Valley—and every Montanan, American and Canadian who cares deeply about the integrity of the Flathead River and the region around Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park—I urge BP to immediately reconsider and withdraw your proposal for the portion of the Mist Mountain coal-bed methane project that is located within the Flathead watershed.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Tester  
United States Senator, Montana

Cc:

Max Baucus, U.S. Senator, Montana  
Dennis Rehberg, U.S. Representative, Montana  
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State  
Governor Brian Schweitzer, Montana  
The Honourable Michael Wilson, Canadian Ambassador to the United States  
The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia  
The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Environment, Canada  
The Honourable John Baird, Canadian Minister of Environment  
The Honourable Richard Neufeld, British Columbia Minister of Mines  
The Honourable John Van Dongen, British Columbia Minister of Intergovernmental Relations  
The Honourable Peter Gordon Mackay, Minister, Foreign Affairs and Minister for the Atlantic-  
Canada Opportunities Agency  
Tony Hayward, BP Group Chief Executive  
John B. Riggs, Government Affairs, BP America, Inc.  
Anita Perry, Vice President Government Relations, BP Canada Energy Company  
Christopher Revington, Vice President, Coal-bed Gas, BP Canada Energy Company  
Rich Moy, Chairman Flathead Basin Commission  
Dennis L. Schornack, Chairman, U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission  
Herb Gray, Chairman, Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission  
Edward Alex Lee, Director, Office of Canadian Affairs, U.S. State Department  
Stephen L. Johnson, Administer Environmental Protection Agency  
Dan Weinberg, Montana State Senator  
Mike Jopek, Montana State Representative