



## ***Environmental activists are pushing a rule change that would put these Montana men and thousands of their neighbors out of work.***

The rule proposed by the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) says that if project engineers can't guarantee that water quality treatment will end two years after operations cease, the mine cannot be permitted.

**It's a bad idea. But don't take our word for it.**

“[M]any mines that would not need perpetual or even short-term treatment will not be able to meet the 2-year requirement....This approach seems **particularly onerous....**”

***Bureau of Land Management  
Jan. 11, 2006***

“One more straw on the camel's back is **not what the Montana economy needs.**”

***Montana Standard editorial  
Jan. 13, 2006***

“The Montana Department of Environmental Quality.... found that **between 50 and 90 percent of future hardrock mining projects would be prevented** if the proposed regulations are adopted.

“The regulations would also **eliminate or prevent the creation of between 740 and 2,600 jobs** that pay \$47 million to \$138 million in salaries, as well as **eliminate between \$7 million and \$16.5 million in tax revenue...**”

“... the Board of Environmental Review should not adopt the MEIC-Fort Belknap proposal.”

***Bozeman Daily Chronicle editorial  
Feb. 13, 2006***

“**This type of proposed ARM change, which would hinder implementation of improved water treatment technology for mining, hinder or halt new mining** in the state, and create entirely new classes of regulated contaminants in the absence of legislation, certainly appears to be **an anti-mining stance, and flashes a signal of 'closed for business.'** Mining has been a workhorse of Montana business for many decades, and continues to be so. We believe that we should continue to feed, nurture and water the horse that we rode this far on that journey. **If the mining workhorse is limping, let's fix its shoe, not shoot it.**”

***Jefferson County Commission  
Jan. 18, 2006***

**Rocked by widespread opposition, MEIC was forced to amend its proposal to make it appear more reasonable—but it's not. The Board of Environmental Review should look at the facts, listen to the experts, and reject the MEIC proposal.**

