

March 5th, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Rick Esplin I was born and raised in this area and retired from law enforcement in August 2016. I currently work in Nevada at Bald Mountain for Kinross Gold and have worked here since I retired. I work in Nevada because there are no good paying jobs in this area. It is a 6 ½ hour drive one way to get to my camper in a man camp located near Bald Mountain. The man camp is located 80 miles southwest of Elko Nevada. Once you head out to camp you better have everything you need for the week or you will have to do without or rely on the help of one of the other occupants in the camp to assist you. Many times we have no cell service, and sometimes no power. There are also times that it gets cold enough it freezes the water lines to our campers. There is always the stress of not knowing what condition your camper will be in when you return back to work from your days off.

Kinross Gold currently work 12 ½ hour shifts, and it is essentially a 5 day on 5 day off schedule. It isn't the exact schedule we have, but to keep my point simple I will use 5 days on, 5 days off. Of the five days off, I lose two of those days to travel. One day coming home the second day going back down to Nevada. This travel also creates a lot of mileage on my vehicle and maintenance. But the pay, benefits and retirement are just good enough to beat anything employment wise and can find in this area.

I would also like to add that I was skeptical of mining and its impact on the environment and wildlife that live in the area. I have been surprised at how little this seems to effect the animals and the habitat. I was also surprised at the attention that is paid to protecting the habitat and also how well they do at reclaiming the areas mined back to a healthy habitat for the animals that live there.

I am aware of Paramount Gold and they're interest in developing the Grassy Mountain Mine. I have seen the results of the test drilling and the results are impressive. I have spoken with several people who live in our area that work down in Nevada on my crew. They have all expressed interest in coming to work at Grassy Mountain when it is permitted to start operations. They, like myself, all want to be closer to home. I have also seen the positive influence both financially and on a personal level that the mines in Nevada have on the

community. The mines have helped the economy, education and the cities as a whole that they are a part of. I have heard that there is concern about attracting enough people to work at the mine. I think that you will be surprised at how many people there are working in the mining profession that travel out of town from our surrounding areas to Nevada, that would jump on the opportunity to work here where they can be at home with their families every night. I know I look forward to that, and I know the people I work with also want that. I think you will be surprised at the positive impact Paramount Gold will have on our community on an economic and personal level.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rick Esplin