

The Honorable Peter Kent  
Minister of Environment  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Kent:

**Re: Proposed Ajax Copper/Gold Mine, Kamloops, B.C.**

I am writing to urge you to refer the proposed Ajax Copper/Gold Mine Project to an **Independent Joint Review Panel** pursuant to your authority under section 28 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* ("CEAA"). This request is based on the considerations outlined below.

The KGHM Ajax Copper-Gold Mine Project (the "Project") would be an open-pit copper mine 50% of which will be located within the City of Kamloops. KGHM would blast, haul and crush 180,000 tonnes of rock per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. The Project is currently in the early stages of a comprehensive study pursuant to CEAA. I am convinced that this study of the Ajax Copper Mine Project will not fully address the potentially significant environmental and health effects of the Project.

My concerns include the following:

- **The destruction of agricultural and ranch lands** that include sensitive native grasslands, and the subsequent impact on the livelihood of the ranchers.
- **Air quality issues.** The City of Kamloops is located directly downslope and downwind of the proposed Ajax mine with 50% of the mine property within city limits. The prevailing southwest wind will blow dust from two huge waste rock facilities and a 940 acre dry tailings facility, plus the dust created by the open pit mining operation - contaminated with heavy metals and dry toxic waste - directly over **8 elementary schools**, 4 high schools, 4 seniors residences, one hospital, one university, and houses in Aberdeen and Pineview Valley. **Pacific Way Elementary School and some houses are less than two kilometres from the mine property.** The boundary of the development of Aberdeen Highlands is only 700 metres from the proposed north waste rock facility.
- **Noise pollution** from a 24hr., 365 days per year operation for 23 years.
- **The probability of acid/toxic mine drainage** from tailings and mine operations into the water sources of those living on the perimeter of the mine site, and into the Thompson River. **Pollution of the Thompson River could also effect the vitally important salmon runs.**
- **The adverse effects on the tourism industry** and related job opportunities.
- **Decreased property values.** My home is my biggest asset.

Yours truly,