

**American Rivers · Earthjustice · EARTHWORKS · Environmental Defense ·  
Environmental Working Group · Friends of the Earth · Greenpeace · League of  
Conservation Voters · National Environmental Trust · National Parks Conservation  
Association · National Tribal Environmental Council · National Wildlife Federation  
· Natural Resources Defense Council · Physicians for Social Responsibility · Scenic  
America · Sierra Club · The Wilderness Society**

April 13, 2004

Michael J. Kowalski  
Chairman of the Board and CEO  
Tiffany & Co.  
600 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Kowalski,

We wish to extend our deepest thanks to Tiffany & Co. for your recent open-letter to U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth regarding the preservation of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area from the proposed Rock Creek mine. We greatly appreciate your desire to protect the beautiful wild lands of Idaho and Montana from the destructive impacts of this mine.

As you note in your letter there are certain places that are clearly inappropriate for mineral development – Lake Pend Oreille, the Clark Fork River and the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness area are among these places. One of the first wilderness areas ever designated, the Cabinet Mountains are home to both the endangered grizzly and threatened bull trout. Over \$1 billion dollars have already been committed to clean up and restore the Clark Fork River, which makes up ninety percent of the water entering Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho’s largest lake. Considered the crown jewel of northern Idaho, Lake Pend Oreille has important cultural and subsistence values to local tribal governments and members and is a critical drinking water source. Lake Pend Oreille boasts a prized fishery and its wild scenic beauty and large expanse of undeveloped, protected shoreline are central to the recreation and tourism that drive the local economy.

We applaud the leadership, vision and business sensibility of Tiffany & Co. Your open-letter has sparked a much needed public debate about the Rock Creek Mine proposal and the need for fundamental reforms of the outdated 1872 Mining Law—in particular putting an end to the preference given to mineral development on our public lands.

As you state in your letter, “Minerals should—and can—be extracted, processed and used in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible.” We agree. And we believe this is the guiding principal that should underpin reform of our nation’s outdated mining laws so that we protect special places and western communities, clean up the lands and

streams polluted by mine waste, and provide taxpayers with a fair return for gold, silver and other minerals mined on our public lands.

Sincerely,

Rebecca R. Wodder  
President  
American Rivers

Tom Kiernan  
President  
National Parks Conservation Association

Vawter Parker  
Executive Director  
Earthjustice

David Conrad  
Executive Director  
National Tribal Environmental Council

Stephen D'Esposito  
President  
EARTHWORKS

Larry Schweiger  
President & CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

Fred Krupp  
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Frances Beinecke  
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Brent Blackwelder  
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John Passacantando  
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Carl Pope  
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Deb Callahan  
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League of Conservation Voters

Bill Meadows  
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The Wilderness Society

Phil Clapp  
President  
National Environmental Trust

