

COMMITTEE HEARING IN WASHINGTON: MONTANA DEQ DECISION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 WAS A BIG DAY FOR THE YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY BUSINESS COALITION. WE WANT TO CLARIFY AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON TWO MAJOR THINGS THAT HAPPENED.

First, thanks to Senator Jon Tester's help and the work of the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition, the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act (S. 941) received a congressional hearing as part of an Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee. Senator Daines serves as a member of the committee and said, "this is



important legislation as it protects Paradise Valley" and "I look forward to working with Senator Tester and local stakeholders." Senator Tester had a few minutes to testify to the importance of Paradise Valley and why the doorstep of Yellowstone is no place for a gold mine. We are continuing to ask for this bill to proceed in the committee to markup in September so it can be eligible for a Senate vote before the end of the year. See details below for how you can help.

Second, unrelated to the activity in D.C., Montana's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released their decision and final assessment for Lucky Minerals' proposal to proceed with exploratory drilling at Emigrant Gulch. Learning the news that exploration could begin on private lands emphasizes the urgency to pass the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act to ensure these public lands are protected permanently from inappropriate gold mining. DEQ's final document is 370+ pages and we are taking a hard look at all that is required of Lucky Minerals and examining all of options. We will continue to closely monitor every step of this process and keep you informed.

PS: YELLOWSTONE IS MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD. THE YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY PROTECTION ACT IS OUR BILL. PLEASE CALL SENATOR DAINES TODAY AND ASK HIM TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH SENATOR TESTER AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS ON ONE BILL.

Click <u>HERE</u> for an archived video of the Senate Committe hearing.

Firefox or MS Explorer/Edge recommended

The Montana DEQ decision on Lucky Minerals can be found <u>HERE</u>.

Photo above: Senator Jon Tester points to a photo of Emigrant Peak while describing the proposed mining threat in the area.

Support the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act, \$.941!

Please call and thank Senator Daines for his positive remarks during the hearing and remind him of his commitment to work on this "important piece of legislation."

Call Senator Daines' Bozeman Office at (406) 587-3446

The Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act is a straightforward solution and our best hope to accomplish the permanent protection we all seek.

Please ask Sen. Daines to work with Sen. Tester, the YGBC and to not proceed with introducing his own bill.