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January 17, 2019

Joint Review Panel
Grassy Mountain Coal Project

Dear Panel:

I own a small business in Crowsnest Pass – the SpringBreak Flower Farm and I am writing this letter in support of the Grassy Mountain coal project in Crowsnest Pass Alberta. My wife and I relocated to Crowsnest Pass 11 years ago to semi-retire and run our own business. The flower farm encompasses a seasonal Garden Centre, Wedding Venue, B&B and we generally employ 12 people each year.

We continually reinvest in our operations; making improvements to facilities each year and we have diversified our offerings (weddings and B&B). We are big community supporters, our Garden Centre has a dedicated returning customer and employee base and we have won numerous business awards. And in spite of doing things 'right' our business is in decline. Garden Centre sales continue to diminish year to year, and in fact so much so that if it wasn't for weddings and the B&B we would have closed the doors by now. Sadly, this is a very common tale in Crowsnest Pass. Store fronts on main street Blairmore have more brown paper on the windows than wares on display. We agree with others that tourism is a big part of our community, but it is naive to think tourism alone is going to save us. Even Banff and Canmore claim they don't have enough tourism to support infrastructure. Crowsnest Pass desperately needs some form of industry if it's going to survive and we believe the Riversdale project is ideal.

Additionally, we understand folks have environmental concerns with the project, we have some as well, but we believe the company is sincere in its commitment to address, minimize and mitigate their footprint and trust the government will hold them to it. We've been to the top of Grassy Mountain and it's a horrible mess. Apparently previous mining companies weren't required to conduct reclamation when abandoning a mine. That's now changed and the only hope for the area, including the creeks is to allow Riversdale to mine the coal and complete reclamation as they go. Longer term, I believe that's a much better legacy to Crowsnest Pass than leaving it as is.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Breakenridge