



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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January 13, 2026

Patrick Imeson

Montana Tunnels Mining Inc.

270 Montana Tunnels Road

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MT 59638-0176

Dear Mr. Imeson:

On November 19, 2025, I wrote to you on behalf of the Montana Environmental Quality Council (EQC), urging you to transfer Montana Tunnels Mining Inc. to an eligible successor operator. That correspondence was prompted by Montana Tunnels' longstanding and deeply troubling record with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Jefferson County regarding site remediation, its delinquent property tax obligations to Jefferson County, and your refusal to engage in good-faith negotiations with an eligible successor operator.

The Council has since learned, through a press release issued by Captivision, Inc., that you are now proposing to transfer Montana Tunnels Mining Inc. to a newly formed company in which you would remain a principal owner, while simultaneously requesting that Jefferson County issue a tax deed to another company you control. These actions are wholly unacceptable to the EQC.

Central to the Council's request that new ownership be secured for Montana Tunnels Mining Inc. was the nonnegotiable requirement that you sever all ties with Montana Tunnels and any successor operator, and that new ownership assume all liabilities and possess the financial capacity to meet those obligations. Rather than complying with these requirements, you are pursuing a course of action that directly contradicts the EQC's request, undermines DEQ's ability to implement an effective reclamation plan for the Montana Tunnels site, and leaves Jefferson County burdened with millions of dollars in unpaid property taxes.

The EQC is not a party to the ongoing litigation in the Fifth Judicial District concerning the Montana Tunnels Mining Inc. and its associated liabilities. We categorically reject, however, any assertion by you or your attorneys in that proceeding that the proposed transfer of Montana Tunnels to a so-called "new" company constitutes a good-faith effort to satisfy the criteria set forth in our November 19, 2025, correspondence.

In the Council's view, and pursuant to § 82-4-360, MCA, you are and remain a "bad actor," and neither you nor any company you own or control is eligible to operate a mine in Montana. We strongly urge you to change course and immediately transfer or sell Montana Tunnels Mining Inc. to a responsible, fiscally sound, eligible, and truly independent third party that has no continuing affiliation with you or any of your affiliated or insider entities.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Fielder, presiding officer  
Environmental Quality Council  
*The Environmental Quality Council approved this letter by unanimous vote*

Cc:  
Gov. Greg Gianforte  
Sonja Nowakowski, director, DEQ  
Samuel King, chief legal counsel, DEQ  
Jefferson County Commissioners