

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
1ST DISTRICT, IOAHO

1711 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1201

March 16, 2001

Ms. Mari-Ann Green, Director
Formation Capital Corporation
812 Shoup Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Ms. Green:

The State of Idaho is fortunate to be among the richest natural resource states in America. As such, mining has always been essential to our community and the industry continues to be one of the State's largest employers. For these reasons and because your industry has proven to be environmentally sensitive and complies with state and federal mining regulations, the Idaho Congressional Delegation supports continued exploration of the Idaho Cobalt Belt.

Cobalt is an important strategic and industrial metal with a broad range of uses. Many Americans benefit from the mining of cobalt on a daily basis because of the use of cobalt in batteries that power cellular phones, portable computers and pagers. Cobalt is also a key element in environmental remediation as it serves as a catalyst for removing sulfur from oil and even is an important component of gasoline-electric hybrid powered vehicles. The metal is crucial to the medical field as it is used in prosthetic implants, surgical steels, and in the treatment of some cancers. Clearly, your project will better the lives of people in Idaho as well as across the country and the world.

Today's mining techniques ensure that a healthy environment and a productive mine are far from mutually exclusive. We fully expect your organization will continue your commitment to environmentally sound mining practices while paying special attention to strict state and federal clean water regulations. We also understand you plan to staff the project mainly with residents of the Salmon area and applaud these efforts. We look forward to working with you to better our state and wish you continued success.

Please feel free to contact Catherine Kennett or Tana Shillingstad in my Boise office for any assistance.

As always, "Idaho -- Esto Perpetua"

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Member of Congress

CLO:ck

BOISE:
304 NORTH 8TH STREET
ROOM 454
BOISE, ID 83702

LEWISTON:
To BE DETERMINED

COEUR D'ALENE:
610 WEST HUBBARD
SUITE 206
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER