

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Green:

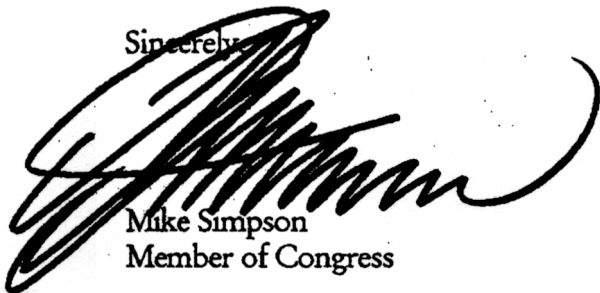
Mining has been a vital part of Idaho's economy since the inception of the State of Idaho. Mining accounts for \$2 billion a year in direct and indirect benefits to the economy of Idaho, creating jobs for over 23,000 Idahoans.

While the current Administration has sent mixed signals regarding the mining industry, we believe mining is still a viable industry in Idaho. We encourage the development of Idaho's mineral resources, as long as new mining operations abide by state and federal environmental laws and regulations.

Additionally, since cobalt is considered to be a strategic metal by the U.S. government, we encourage the development of a cobalt mine, which would allow the U.S. to obtain domestically produced cobalt instead of relying solely on foreign sources. With the largest known deposit of cobalt in the U.S. located near Salmon, Idaho appears poised to fill the role of supplying the U.S. with cobalt.

It is the expectation of the Idaho Congressional delegation that this Sunshine Project be treated the same as any other proposal throughout the permitting and regulatory process. Furthermore, modern-day mining practices give us confidence that this project can provide both an economic and environmental benefit to the state. We look forward to working with you in the future and wish you the best of luck.

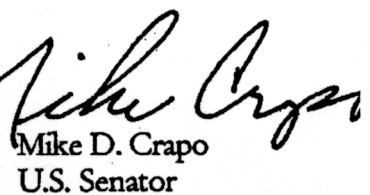
Sincerely,



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Larry H. Craig
U.S. Senator



Mike D. Crapo
U.S. Senator