

# RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA

## RESOLUTION NO. 20310

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SMITH RIVER STATE PARK AND EXPRESSING CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITIES THAT MAY ADVERSELY IMPACT THE HEALTH OF THE RIVER, THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF HELENA'S RESIDENTS, AND HELENA'S ECONOMY

**WHEREAS**, Montana's Smith River is a national treasure due to its gorgeous canyon scenery, renowned trout fishery, and abundant wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Montana recognized the exceptional environmental, cultural, and economic values of the Smith River with the creation of Smith River State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Smith River has become an important economic driver in southwestern Montana's recreation economy, generating close to \$10 million in economic activity, close to \$3 million in salaries and wages, and approximately \$750,000 in state and local tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, several Helena-area citizens and business are dependent upon the Smith River, in part, for their income; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 approximately 966 residents in the City of Helena applied for a permit to float the Smith River, and approximately 100 were successful; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheep Creek tributary of the Smith River is critical for its fishery and in-stream flows; and

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**WHEREAS**, there is a proposal by Tintina Resources of Canada and Sandfire Resources of Australia to develop a copper mine directly adjacent to and underneath Sheep Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, mining activity in Montana, both modern and historic, has caused irreparable and long-lasting damage to the water and wildlife of many of our prized rivers and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, several Helena businesses have publicly expressed concerns regarding Tintina's proposed mining activities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:**

**Section 1.** That Smith River State Park is an incredible resource and benefit to the quality of life for the citizens of Helena, an important economic driver for Helena and the region, and an incredible resource for the state of Montana.

**Section 2.** Any proposed mining activities that could potentially affect the health and vitality of the Smith River should be viewed skeptically, and should not be permitted unless the applicant can demonstrate with absolute certainty that the proposal will not harm the river.

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Fish,

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Wildlife, and Parks, Governor Steve Bullock, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA,  
MONTANA, 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016.**

/S/ JAMES E. SMITH \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

/S/ DEBBIE HAVENS \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION