



**SIERRA  
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B.C. Southwest Mines Division  
PO Box 9395  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9M9

April 18, 2019

**RE: Giant Copper/Imperial Metals File number: 0700195**

Dear Southwest Mines Division,

Imperial Metals' application for an exploration permit in the area of the upper Skagit River Watershed must not be granted. This area, known as the Donut Hole, is important habitat for species at risk, is a well-loved recreation destination adjacent to two provincial parks, and has already experienced damage as a result of clearcut logging permitted by BC Timber Sales.

This area is one of the last largely intact landscapes of this scale close to Vancouver and Seattle. We are concerned about the environmental impact this mineral exploration would have on the Skagit River.

Sierra Club BC is writing to request that the B.C. government ban mining and clearcut logging in the Donut Hole.

Further, we request that the B.C. government recognise the mandate of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) in relation to acquisition of the Giant Copper property, and work with SEEC to negotiate a purchase of the property.

Given the example of Mount Polley, Imperial Metals does not have a good record on environmental issues. The health of the Skagit River is at risk. It is important that the B.C. government recognise the cooperative relationship between Canada and the U.S. that is required by the Skagit Treaty on environmental issues, and the investment made by Seattle in fish and wildlife projects in the lower Skagit.

The Donut Hole provides habitat for species at risk like the Cascade population of grizzly bears and the spotted owl. Downstream, it is important spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, a key food source for endangered southern resident orca whales. The high ecological values of this area, combined with its high recreation values, make it no place for mining or clearcut logging.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitlyn', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Caitlyn Vernon  
Campaigns Director  
Sierra Club BC

CC: Kelly Sather, Senior Ministerial Assistant to George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change