



January 28, 2014

Colette Spagnuolo / Jeff Sewell
Marathon Joint Review Panel Secretariat
22nd Floor, 160 Elgin St.
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Via email: marathonmine.review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Spagnuolo & Mr. Sewell:

The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce represents nearly 2,000 businesses from Kenora and Rainy River in the west to Marathon and Greenstone in the east. On behalf of our membership, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Stillwater Canada Inc. Marathon PGM-CU project.

The Town of Marathon has a population of approximately 4,000 and would greatly benefit from the addition of an estimated 400 construction jobs for a 24 to 36 month period. Following completion of the build, the creation of 365 permanent full-time jobs and estimated three to one factor for spin-off jobs would provide an excellent base for economic vibrancy and growth of the community. The project will also provide new opportunities for improved youth retention and skills development. Confederation College has recognized the need for additional training in Marathon and operates a satellite campus in the community that will help to build a sustainable workforce.

We are pleased to hear that Stillwater and the Town of Marathon are currently in negotiations regarding a socio-economic agreement to ensure the sustainability of the community over the long term even when the mine has finished its useful life. We believe that this kind of long-term, collaborative approach shows the commitment of the company to do the right thing for the community.

It is our understanding that much of the essential infrastructure including schools, water & wastewater, and health services are already in place to meet the needs of new residents without added strain to the municipality. We believe that the Stillwater Marathon PGM-CU project will be of broad benefit for Marathon and the surrounding North Shore communities.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Michael Nitz, President
/cr

c. Bob Hancherow, Marathon Economic Development Corporation
Clark Gilbert, Stillwater Canada Inc.