



Hinton & District Chamber of Commerce Association
309 Gregg Avenue, Hinton, AB T7V 2A7
Phone: (780) 865-2777
Email: info@hintonchamber.com
www.hintonchamber.com

October 1, 2024

Re: Vista Coal Mine Phase II

Dear Honorary Mr. Guilbeault,

The Hinton and District Chamber of Commerce writes to you today in support of the Vista Coal Mine Phase II and asking you to not designate this project for assessment and delay the economic impact the estimated 10 years of additional mining activity would bring to our region.

Hinton is a rural community that has a long history centered around the extraction of natural resources, including more than a century of coal mining in and around our town. The Hinton area relies on these industries to sustain our community. Vista Coal directly employs 460 people with high-paying jobs, and supports countless other positions through their contractors and suppliers, most of whom call Hinton home.

Hinton has around 10,000 people and an estimated 3,000 households and we ask the Minister to consider the impact of potentially losing more than 400 families in a town our size. Besides the previously outlined economic impacts, please also consider the countless non-profit and community groups – from Indigenous groups, to sports and social supports – to which Vista Coal has provided critical corporate donations.



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In the absence of Phase II, the mine would cease to operate when Phase I resources are depleted and there would be an associated decline in revenue and employment in the Town of Hinton.

We also hope that you will consider the ongoing tax and royalty benefits that will come from Phase II, with the company stating there will be an estimated \$260 million of royalties and taxes for Alberta over the life of the project with an additional \$180 million in federal taxes and more than \$16 million of local taxes over the life of the project.

Vista Mine emphasizes that Phase II is not a new mining project, but rather a continuation of the existing mine where current production levels are expected to be maintained as when production from the existing Phase I ramps down production from Phase II will ramp up.

We hope you choose not to designate Phase II of the Vista Coal Mine.

Sincerely,

Trevor Bamsey, president
on behalf of the board of directors
The Hinton and District Chamber of Commerce