

I was born and raised in Leadville and am a small business owner. I am very troubled by the idea of a milling operation being allowed in Lake County using cyanide as part of its process to extract gold from mine tailings.

I am concerned about two things. First, the possibility of an industrial accident that would negatively affect the Arkansas River. This issue goes far beyond Lake County. Everyone that relies on the river for recreation or the source of water for their homes has the potential of being harmed. This area of Colorado has worked for years to restore the Arkansas River and it is now a Gold Medal River. Why would we risk all of the work that has been accomplished?

My second major concern are the tailings that this company proposes to disturb by loading the material on trucks to take to the mill site. Those tailings have been part of the East Side Mining District all of my life. I did some research and understand that they are stable and their existence approved by the EPA as part of the resolution of the Super Fund site. My concern regarding disturbing this material is what we would be exposed to. Can CJK identify specifically what is contained in this material? Can it assure everyone that nothing would be discharged into the air that would be hazardous to me and my family?

I understand that some people think that opposing this mill is anti-mining. I would answer that my father is a retired miner from Leadville who supported our family as a miner. My husband works at the Climax Mine which has been a good and safe neighbor in Lake County.

My opposition is not anti-mining. It is anti the very real possibility of harming our community. Lake County will get very little out of this project other than the possibility of damaging our environment and health while CJK plans to make millions of dollars. That is not a good proposition for the citizens of Leadville and Lake County. I respectfully ask that you deny CJK's application.