

August 18, 2010

Re: Comox Valley mine proposal threatens shellfish, Stephen Hume, August 18, 2010

Dear Editor,

The Mining Association of BC was disappointed to read Stephen Hume's column addressing environmental review of mining projects and specifically the proposed Raven Project on Vancouver Island.

Mr. Hume's column exclusively reiterated the views of one opponent of the Raven Project, neglecting to seek comment from the two companies he referred to, Compliance Energy and Taseko Mines, ourselves or even the provincial government, whose environmental review process comes under unfounded criticism.

Had Mr. Hume made an effort for a more balanced perspective, he would have learned that virtually all of the topics of concern raised by the UVIC Environmental Law Centre are typically addressed by a comprehensive study, the type of environmental assessment currently being undertaken jointly by BC and the federal governments, a very high standard of environmental review.

Mr. Hume would also have found that in the case of the Prosperity Project, BC's conclusions were virtually identical to those of the federal panel. However, BC went further to find that the effects were justified based on the significant economic benefits of the project, a step that was outside the federal panel's mandate but that now rests with the federal cabinet.

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