Jon's Fight to Protect Columbia Falls

THE SENATOR'S COMMITMENT TO JOBS AND HEALTH

2008

December 23 –
The Glencore-owned Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) notifies all employees that it will shut down within 60 days, eliminating nearly 200 jobs. CFAC in part blames a Ninth Circuit Court decision, which prevents Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) from providing power to CFAC at a preferential rate.

2009

January 5 –
Tester urges the head of BPA to quickly renegotiate a power contract with CFAC.

– October 31
CFAC officially ceased operations.

2010

May 7 –
Tester expresses ire that Glencore is applying for a 95-percent property tax break from Flathead County School District 6 after the company announced a $12 billion initial public offering.

May 10 –
Glencore announces a $12 billion IPO while applying for a 95 percent property tax break from Flathead County School District 6.

August 2 –
Tester praises a proposed power sales agreement between BPA and CFAC, which would help reopen the plant.

– December 6
Tester urges BPA to sign a long-term agreement to supply power to CFAC in an effort to restore and create up to 350 jobs.

2011

July 12 –
Tester and U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Daniel Poneman discuss the need to reopen CFAC under a new 10-year contract with BPA.

2012

– April 21
Columbia Falls City Council directs city manager Susan Nicosia to seek Superfund designation for CFAC.

2013

March 5 –
Tester calls on the EPA to study contamination levels at CFAC and determine whether the site deserves Superfund listing.

March 27 –
Tester holds a public listening session with Columbia Falls officials and residents to discuss the town's future plans for the CFAC site.

April 3 –
In response to Tester's letter, EPA agrees to investigate CFAC site for possible Superfund listing.

June 30 –
Tester criticizes Glencore for misleading the community of Columbia Falls and says despite Glencore's public statements the company "never had any intentions of [reopening CFAC]."

2014

– February 8
The City Council of Columbia Falls sends Tester a letter encouraging him to stay the course to get Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. on the National Priorities List for Superfund sites.

– March 24
Jon tours CFAC with Glencore and local officials to reiterate his commitment to getting the site cleaned up.

2015

January 8 –
Tester wrote EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy urging her to list CFAC as a Superfund site.

March 3 –
CFAC announces its permanent closure.

March 20 –
Tester meets with Columbia Falls officials and business leaders to discuss Superfund designation and cleanup at CFAC.

November 30 –
Tester helps secure an agreement between the EPA and Glencore to move forward with CFAC's cleanup.

2016

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER