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The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Mono County  
P.O. Box 715  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
via fax: (760) 932-5531 and email [lroberts@mono.ca.gov](mailto:lroberts@mono.ca.gov)

re: Cougar Gold/Electrum Proposal for Mining at Bodie Hills

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment upon the proposal to allow mining at Bodie Hills. Thank you also for your wise leadership regarding Bodie Hills, when your majority previously voted not to release the Bodie Wilderness Study Areas for mining.

The Bodie Hills area is wild and pristine, with a high level of biological diversity. The three Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas are there for good reason, and mining in the area would irrevocably harm the ecosystem integrity of the area. The area also holds one of the highest concentrations of archaeological sites in the Great Basin.

There is a common misconception that extraction enterprise is the only source of economic benefit from natural resources when, in fact, tourism is of far greater economic value to the people of the Sierras than the potential of mining. Tourism also poses less health and environmental risks, which are costs that must be borne by the population and its government.

The great wealth you have in Bodie Hills is not in a vein of ore but in the timeless and multiple impacts of its natural and cultural wonders, and its ecosystem function. On behalf of Antelope Valley Conservancy, a California public benefit corporation that preserves and stewards habitat and watershed resources, I strongly encourage you to protect the Bodie Hills in its pristine state.

I request you to deny approval for mining at Bodie Hills.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Reed, MPA, President  
ANTELOPE VALLEY CONSERVANCY