

Dear North Dakota Public Service Commission,

I am a very concerned citizen of our great state of North Dakota, because of the pressure of out-of-state companies seeking to exploit our resources. I am a farmer and a mother. I deeply care about the future of our state. The proposed mine near South Heart, North Dakota, is a threat to our way of life and the health of our environment.

Strip mining has very real environmental damages such as: loss of viable farmland; loss of topsoil; mercury contamination in air and waterways; heavy machinery pollution; not to mention the coal near South Heart is known to contain uranium. With the wind that blows in ND, these toxins will be blowing all over, even before any coal is burnt.

Out-of-state interests that want to temporarily move into the state and take what they want from our land, possibly ship it overseas and then move out and leave us with, land, air, and water contamination. This is not in North Dakota's best interest. Preservation of North Dakota's natural beauty and farm heritage should be a top priority for us all.

The citizens in western North Dakota have jobs. They are Farmers and Ranchers feeding this great nation. They are also folks who have built great businesses around the tourism industry. An industry that would obviously be in jeopardy if Theodore Roosevelt National Park became an industrial mining region.

This mine exchanges short-term economic gains for long-term loss. Our children's air quality, our Farmer's and Rancher's land quality, and our future water supply are all being auctioned off to the highest bidder.

As a citizen of this state I request that the ND Public Service Commission deny permits for the South Heart coal mining operation. I also request that there be a formal public hearing on this matter.

Thank you and I am confident that this public service commission will recognize the voices of citizens of this state.

Angela McGinness, Farmer, Mother, Wife, and Citizen

*[Handwritten signature]* 2-20-11

FROM DIRECTOR - RECLAMATION DIVISION

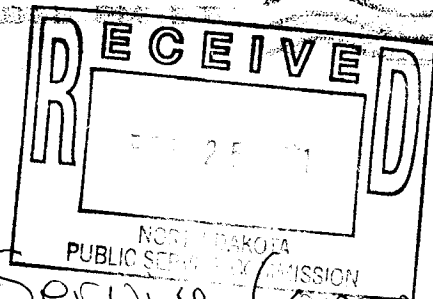
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