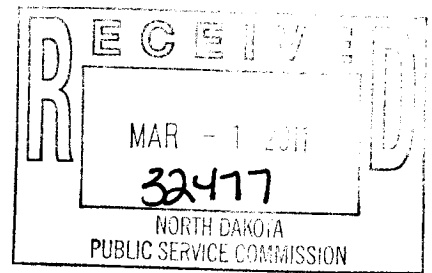


February 24, 2011



ND Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Ave,  
Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to request a formal hearing regarding the South Heart Mining Permit Application. As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I am very concerned with the implications that a mine in South Heart would have on Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I grew up camping and hiking in the park and now enjoy many weekends each summer building similar memories with my own children.

I strongly feel that having a mine located just outside the park will adversely effect the perception that Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a place of pristine nature. It is this pure and wild beauty that draws my 9 and 12 year-olds to wait anxiously for another summer camping trip. A mine would likely mean that visitors coming west would see an industrial zone as they approach the park, not to mention breathe much worse air with erionite and uranium blowing around from the strip mining.

Because this mine will have such a large effect on Western ND and our state's largest tourism site, I would like the Commission to hold a formal hearing where citizens can express their concerns. We must preserve North Dakota's true gem, Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Wanek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Wanek  
831 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501