

# WESTERN MINING ACTION PROJECT

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October 16, 2017

Via Email: russ.means@state.co.us

Russ Means  
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Minerals Program  
Grand Junction Field Office  
101 South 3rd, Suite 301  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

RE: Stipulated Withdrawal of Objection: First Notice of Temporary Cessation for Mineral Joe Mine,  
Permit M-1977-284; SM-18 Mine, M-1978-116; and CM-25 Mine, M-1977-307

Dear Mr. Means,

INFORM, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Earthworks ("objectors") hereby withdraw their objection in the above-referenced matter, currently scheduled to be heard by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board on October 25, 2017. The objectors understand that the present matter involves only a couple additional months of a retroactive first period of temporary cessation, and that these same permits will be up for Board review again in a matter of two or three months on applications for a second period of temporary cessation.

The objectors emphasize that they remain convinced that any temporary cessation for these permits is unwarranted and unlawful. Nevertheless, objectors agree to the current withdrawal in the interest of not consuming board, staff, and party resources on largely identical issues as those that will (assuming a timely objection) be before the Board in the near future. As discussed with counsel for the Division, objectors understand that this withdrawal will not prejudice the objectors' ability to raise any arguments regarding the legal or factual eligibility of these permits for any further periods of temporary cessation.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeffrey C. Parsons*

Jeffrey C. Parsons  
Counsel for Objectors

cc: Jeff Fugate, Colorado Attorney General's Office  
Robert Tuchman, counsel for applicant Cotter Corporation  
Jennifer Thurston, Information Network for Responsible Mining