

**STATE OF  
COLORADO****Hays - DNR, Peter <peter.hays@state.co.us>**

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**Permit #M2018016, Douglas Mountain Mine Project**1 message

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**Tony Robertson** <ja.tony.robertson@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 29, 2018 at 10:41 AM

To: peter.hays@state.co.us

Dear Mr. Hays,

My wife and I attended a town meeting in Empire last night to discuss the proposed Douglas Mountain Mine Project. We are building a home at 192 East Clear Creek Drive, adjacent to the land under consideration. We are among the nearly unanimous Empire residents who are adamantly opposed to this development. Aside from destroying the character of historic Empire, this proposed operation would devastate local wildlife, destroy a wild stream, create massive clouds of unknown contaminants, and cause even more traffic problems along the most congested portion of I-70.

Among the comments last night that I heard, but have not yet personally verified:

1. The land holders tried to slip this deal by an uninformed community. There was only one posting in the news and most residents of Clear Creek County are still unaware of the plan.
2. The land holders bought the acreage for around \$200,000. Now they want to destroy the town and the local environment to make a few bucks.
3. The land holders do not have mining rights.
4. The sale of part of the land to the developers is contingent on permit approval.
5. The county has expressed interest in a fair purchase of the land for green space development.
6. Coors owns the water rights to Clear Creek (I sent a note to MillerCoors this morning informing them of the proposed project).
7. The operation would involve around 300 truck loads of gravel per day. Trucks would drive west to Georgetown and then most would head down to Denver.

Have you driven through Empire? The first thing you see coming into town is a sign with bighorn sheep - the Colorado State animal. Visitors often see bighorn sheep along US-40 on the way into town. The proposed mining operation would put an end to that. It would destroy their environment, as well as the grazing meadow and migration pathway of deer and elk and the homes of resident bears, and mountain lions. We had a bear visit our yard a few weeks back. A mountain lion and her cub visited last year. We don't want them to move away. Apparently there are endangered species in the Clear Creek water shed - I can't imagine a strip mine would be good for their welfare. Destroying wildlife habitat is only one of the environmental concerns. An operation of this magnitude would create enormous clouds of dust, potentially including toxic contaminants. That is what downwind residents and the special needs children at the adjacent Easter Seals camp can look forward to. Water contamination is another potential environmental concern.

I imagine that you will be receiving many other emails and letters in the next few days. We are hopeful that our government will listen to our concerns and weigh our community's needs and values, not just the special interests of a few people who want to exploit the environment and the community to line their pockets. There are alternatives (e.g., green space) that could meet the needs of all concerned.

Thank you for your time and best regards,

James A. Robertson