

To: The Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Attn: Peter.hays@state.co.us
CC: Colorado Department of Transportation
Attn: amy.ford@state.co.us
CC: Clear Creek County Commissioner
Attn: bluther@co.clear-creek.co.us
CC: 9wants to know – www.9news.com

July 8th, 2018

Subject: Permit # M2018016, Douglas Mountain Mine Project,

Located near section 28, Township 3S, Range 74W, 6th Principal Meridian

I am a part of the Berthoud Falls community, directly above the town of Empire. I oppose the Douglas Mine Operation with the following concerns.

Water concerns: We are in a drought – thus more water consumed in the area will affect the quality of life for all of us in the community. Also, potentially causing erosion of current water ways and creation of toxic soil.

Wildlife Concerns: There are various species in our area that depend on the bounty provided by nature, including the Endangered Greenback Cutthroat and our iconic Big Horn Sheep. If the Douglas Mine Project is allowed to proceed, our wildlife will certainly suffer.

Environmental Concerns: The addition of gravel mining in this area will create more airborne particles, traffic, and increased pollution from mining machinery. The Easter Seals camp is very close in proximity, causing environmental concerns for special needs campers and their volunteer staff. Noise pollution from creating the gravel is also a concern for all businesses and residence in Empire and the surrounding areas.

Colorado Department of Transportation needs to address current issues in the area – both bridges leaving/entering Empire are in need of major repairs. I urge CDOT to place an injunction on the approval of a mining operations pending a plan of action to repair the areas between Empire, Idaho Springs and Georgetown for safe travel on I-70, US 40 and frontage roads prior to any development at this location that would increase the already high demand on these roads. In addition, high winds through the valley of Empire Junction, could potentially cause visibility issues on US 40 and I-70 as a direct result of dust from gravel mining.

Additional concerns: Empire Cemetery and Economy – Will the presence of the Douglass Mine impact the burial grounds of love ones from the 1800's or impact the economy of Empire in a negative way? Potentially driving visitors to neighboring towns with unblemished views, less traffic, dust, and noise.

Recommendations: This location is an ideal opportunity for Colorado and Clear Creek County to excel. Retail, tourism, medical, emergency services, and/or affordable/senior/hospice housing. Clear Creek is a mecca of tourist attractions; I encourage the development to cater to enhancing visitors experience or cater to the county's current needs. Affordable/Senior housing is limited, and Hospice care is not available in the community or the surrounding areas at this time.

It is never a glorious day when a mountain is taken down for profit, it is a glorious day when a mountain is celebrated and enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

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