5-3-2017

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Sir

I am writing this letter in an attempt to convey my concern with what is called "The Back 40 Project" which is owned by a company called "Aquila" and is located along the Menominee River in Upper Michigan which also borders Wisconsin. Everything in me and everyone who lives in the U.P. of Michigan as well as those on the border of Wisconsin say this is a disaster waiting to happen. I have been living here for over 60 years. I remember as a boy fishing on the Government Pier and the Light House pier, it was so polluted I had to clean my line off every few minutes because there was so much "sludge" in the water from the paper mills. The fish advisories were so high we were told not to eat "anything" we caught because of the chemicals the Ansul Co. was dumping in the river, and this was just from the dam down which is about two miles from Green Bay…(Lake Michigan). It took decades to get our river healthy again… and it is!! It's in great shape, but now we have an even greater concern, a company called "Aquila", (who by the way has changed their name 26 times since they were created) is trying to obtain all the legal rights to mine the minerals that are there just so they can sell those rights to a mining company. All they care about is "money"…. All we care about, is our beautiful river and all the environmental hazards that will go with it, that, like I said, took decades to get healthy. That mine is only 50 yards from the Menominee River and is expected to be over 800 feet deep. They keep saying that ….. nothing is going to happen… it's perfectly safe for the river…"Right"!! For one thing, it's not their river it's ours. They have the land…. But it's too close to our river!!

I'm going to go off track here for just a bit to try and convey what can happen, and also be prevented. Do you think B.P. ever thought the catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico "New Horizons" (what a nice name) would ever happen? And just a couple years later, hundreds of thousands of dead fish filled the Florida water ways and surrounding coast. That water circulates back into the Atlantic Ocean. All along the Atlantic Ocean other issues began…. dead dolphins, turtles, whales, crabs, coral, hundreds of thousands of more fish, (thousands of tons) etc. And they knew it was a

dangerous well, and proceeded anyway. I know it's not a mine… it's just another example of a "Catastrophe" waiting to happen. In the mid 1800's logging was at a high, but the Giant Sequoia's were not yet discovered. It wasn't until a hunter named Augustus T. Dowd chasing a bear was lead right to them. Dowd kept his mouth shut about for some time, but did eventually talk. When the logging companies got word of this, all they saw was $$$...!! Fortunately a conversation activist named John Muir also found out, and thus began the preservation of what is now known as "The Sequoia National Park" which was signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison, thus stopping the destruction of an entire echo system. Thank God for long term preservation. To think that man can change the condition of the entire planet, and to think that the Earths capacity to handle and fix man's hunger for destruction has no limits is just plain "Ludicrous"!! Trees are the Earth's cleaners, look at the Amazon and their river, 5,000 acres a day cut down, and one of the largest most pristine rivers in the world turned into a mud flow… Another disaster.

I've told you these stories in an attempt to get you to consider what's going on "here".... and the consequences that will follow.

Let's talk mines. Remember the spill from the "Gold King Mine" just two years ago, that entered the Colorado River via the Animas River where the spill occurred. That spill dumped 3 million gallons of toxic waste water laced with iron, copper, zinc, arsenic, and lead and turned the water yellow. We all know that was brought on by the E.P.A. itself.... They were just trying to fix a leak!! Are you people aware that there are 230 mines of this type in the state of Colorado alone, leaking toxic waste water into their state rivers? How about the honesty of mining companies? Two companies called Kennecott and Rio Tinto ran a mine in Juno Alaska called "Greens Creek".. They were caught releasing toxic waste into the waterway 391 times....!! WHO ARE "YOU" GOING TO BELIEVE when they submit their self-conducted tests?? Ever hear of the "Mount Polly Mine" in British Columbia which is owned by "Imperial Metals" ?? Well here's what happened just 3 ½ years ago… Oh, by the way.. (Canada)!! A tailings pond dumped over 4 billion gallons of sludge into the pristine water ways and surrounding forest contaminating the land, and the water, you can see it on YouTube (Mount Polly Tailings Pond). Effluent from that spill is still being discharged into Quesnel Lake, a drinking water source and salmon spawning

ground. Did you know there are "Thousands" of mines across the western U.S. with toxic waste? That's what they all produce, "Toxic Waste"!! And for what? Money?? Here, have some more. Ever hear of the Flambeau River Mine in Ladysmith, WI? This mine was operated by a subsidiary of "Kennecott Minerals".... Again, Canada!!

Well here's their story. They had an open pit mine on the shores of the Flambeau River mining for copper, gold, and silver, it operated for 4 years, when it was all said and done it virtually sterilized the river. At one point the river was just 4 feet from flooding the mine due to increased water runoff, they got lucky on that one. The problems began when the operation of this 220 foot mine was finished and the mine was filled in, but started to emit surface runoff. Multiple samples were taken during 2004-2008. These tests showed significantly elevated levels copper exceeding both chronic and acute standards. Studies show the stream as almost devoid of life, including vegetation, macroinvertebrates, and fish. Researchers believe this is because of the high levels of metal. At one sampling location, the copper level was 10 times the acute water quality level standard, and the zinc level was twice the acute standard. Copper and Zinc are synergistic metals, which means their combined impact on aquatic organisms is greater than by itself. This river was the home and habitat for Muskellunge, Bald Eagles, and Osprey and is now virtually sterile. Dr. Robert E. Moran noted hydrologist with 45 years of experience just finished a research study and found that all quality reports issued to the Wisconsin D.N.R. were lies. The toxic waste is still way over the legal limits. Is it really worth the risks? What does it take to get your attention on this very serious matter?

How about these facts!!

I worked for a company up until last fall who changed their name 4 times in approximately 15 or so years. The reason was always the same, they were in trouble, usually financially, and a few times with the D.O.T. as it was a trucking company. Aquila, has changed its name 26 times since its inception. 26 TIMES??? Why would you need to do that? I'm pretty sure I know why.... It's to hide something!! Or many things. They want to dig a hole 800 feet deep, 50 yards from the Menominee River, and tunnel under it to the Wisconsin side. I'd like to think Governor Scott Walker might be concerned about this since this river borders your state too! They say

they're going to erect a wall to keep the river out of the mine, and contain the contaminants from the mine, from entering the river, well.... do you really think it's possible for a "12 inch" poured concrete wall to withstand the rigors of time and the earth shattering blasting and digging for a mine of this magnitude, it will fail, and after all, it's not a perfect world is it? Ever hear of a 100 year flood? Well it doesn't need to take a 100 years, this river is extremely unpredictable, I personally have seen this river completely out of control several times in my life, it's unbelievable! If you think Aquila can handle the Menominee during a flood.... They can't! Go to YouTube and type in "Menominee River Flood of 2013" that was just 4 years ago this month. We have a park that's just downstream from the lower dam called "Stephenson Island" ... I remember seeing the lower half of the island 30 inches under water during a different flood, it stayed that way for two weeks. Up river, homes, lawns, the land itself, all under water... I saw it with my own eyes!! On yet another occasion, there is a dam in McAllister with an island just below the dam. The entire island was literally white water roughly three feet deep, just raging.... Raging out of control. There's no way Aquila's mine will have an incident huh?? This Can't Be Allowed"!!!

How can you not see this, or hear us? Maybe were just little people with not enough money? Yet, if I were to dig a cat tail out of a ditch, it's illegal. If I pick the flower from a Lilly Pad, it's illegal. If I dig up a Trillium, it's illegal, and they all come with fines. 25 years ago, if I took a Sturgeon from the fiver undersize or out of season, the fine was $3,000... I don't know what it is now. These are small things, microscopic, compared to what the Aquila mine is going to do.

This area is also a Native American archeological and burial site. For many of these people this is like tearing down their church and desecrating their graves. Have you no consciences? What we have here, is a hand full of people who have made "Money... their God" .. I know you don't buy that concept, but it's true, all they care about is money, a few jobs for a short time, and a ton of money for a select few when it's all said and done/destroyed!! Do you know the safety history of "All Sulfide Mines"? Would you like "ME" to tell you? Historically, they "ALL" have an eventual failure, and this one, "will"... eventually.... contaminate... our river, which empties directly into Lake Michigan via the Bay of "Green Bay", and Lake Michigan has 21% of the worlds fresh water, and clean toxic

free, fresh water, will eventually be… "Priceless"!!! That's a different kind of recourse, one that's supposed to be for everyone, and it is… Not just a hand full who will destroy it. This 83 acre mine with its 16 year life span, **when** it leaks, will take 2,500 years for nature to fix! What about the aquafer, our sturgeon, the wild rice, which by the way was just replanted last year and will die, with a sulfide amount of just 10 parts per billion, it cannot grow in its presence. I'm convinced that the vast amount of information you have, has been provided to you by Aquila attorneys.

If you still don't see it, you sure as heck can't deny this; everyone knows the answer to this one. The sole job of an attorney, is to take a situation, and make it look completely different from what it is. How is it you don't hear the voices of all of us, but you hear those money loving liars?? Are you aware that the Kennecott Mine was blocked in Marquette, and the reason was because it was going to be a sulfide mine that ran along the "Salmon Trout River", which empties directly into "Lake Superior". I wonder what they all saw that you all don't seem to see. Environmental Disaster?? In Michigan's U.P.?

I'm also sending a list of the names and phone numbers of everyone that will be getting a copy of this letter, so you can …. perhaps, talk to each other? I would also appreciate a response to this letter. This is a very important matter.

Thank you for your time,

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Sincerely, (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

This is a list of everyone who will be getting a copy of this letter. I included the names and phone numbers in the hope that you will talk to each other and share information on this very important matter.

1) Michigan D.E.Q., Joe Kaki 906-250-4015
2) Michigan D.N.R., William Moritz 517-284-6367
3) Michigan Governor, Rick Snyder 517-373-3400
4) U.S. Michigan Corps of Engineers, No Name. 313-226-6413
5) Michigan Representative, Jack Bergman 202-225-4735
6) Michigan Representative, Beau LaFave 517-373-1056
7) Michigan State Senator, Tom Casperson 517-373-7840
8) Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker 608-266-1212
9) Administrator for E.P.A., Robert Kaplan 312-886-3000 / 312-353-2000
10) N.R.C. MI, State Conservationist, Garry Lee 517-324-5277
11) N.R.C. WI, State Conservationist, Angelia Biggs 608-662-4422
12) Senator, Dave Hanson 608-266-5670
13) State Representative, Jeffery Mursau Madison, 608-266-3780
Marinette, 715-854-3477
14) State Representative, John Nygren 715-732-2343
15) U.S. Senator, Dave Hanson 608-266-5670
16) U.S. Senator, Debbie Stabenow 202-224-4822
17) U.S. Senator, Tammy Baldwin, 202-224-5653
18) U.S. Senator, Ron Johnson, 202-224-5323
19) U.S. Representative, Mike Gallagher 202-225-5665
20) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 906-226-6571
21) Michigan State Senator, Tom Casperson, 517-373-7840

Please, Please… help us with this… **It Can Not Be Allowed,** it "will" be disastrous.

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Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania, Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20460

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