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MAY 30 2011

CEAA - PYR

Interfaith Statement

of environmental stewardship
regarding the proposed
Raven Underground Coal Mine

As faith communities concerned about peace and justice for all living beings, we, the undersigned, want to express our common conviction that the local and global environmental costs of the Raven project outweigh its economic gains. We, therefore, oppose the development of this project.

Our respective religious and spiritual organizations serve many of Vancouver Island's residents of diverse income levels, races, ages, cultural traditions and communities. We are unified and guided by values that call humanity to be careful and responsible stewards of creation. Also, while our diverse scriptural mandates do not necessarily prescribe specific policies, the moral principle of prudence compels us to act to protect the common good. Given these values, we believe the issues of climate change, responsible natural resources management, and the need for healthy economies must be given serious reflection and study in determining the viability of resource development projects.

As such, we find:

The proposed Raven project will:

- Add over 52 million tonnes of climate-change CO2 into our atmosphere
 - Dump 17 million tonnes of acidic waste rock in the Cowie Creek Watershed
 - Add over 52,000 trucks a year to our local roadways
 - Destroy valuable ecosystems home to trout, salmon and elk
 - Reduce the quality and quantity of water resources in the area
 - Potentially wipe out the \$22 million Baynes Sound aquaculture industry
 - Adversely affect the local tourist economy and real estate values
- Two highly reputable professional geologists, having evaluated the coal's high ash and sulphur content, question the project's economic viability, even without factoring in the environmental costs.
 - The decision to disallow the project will significantly support a commitment toward "de-carbonising" our provincial and local economies and transitioning to a green economy that promotes sustainable livelihoods.

**On the basis of sound stewardship and care for all creation,
the morally prudent action is to not develop the Raven project.**

May 12/11

Cochair Person
Hope Lutheran Church
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