

Personal Information Withheld

My husband and I own and operate three ecotourism businesses in Tofino, BC, right in the heart of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. We are privileged to be able to live here and make a living that supports our family and our employees.

We rely on the healthy marine and terrestrial environments not only in our immediate vicinity, but also in the region and indeed, in the province. We strive to operate our businesses with the smallest ecological footprint that we can, using solar power in addition to hydroelectricity, using food from our large organic gardens, and implementing strict policies with respect to cleaning products, the use of disposable containers and foodware (banned in our facilities), etc.

I oppose the Raven Coal Mine for the following reasons:

The increased traffic between the east coast of Vancouver Island and Port Alberni increases congestion on the highway leading to the West Coast of Vancouver Island and increases the risk of traffic accidents and fatalities.

Highway 4 is already a dangerous highway.

The mine will destroy tributaries to Cowie Creek that are breeding habitat for cutthroat trout. Toxins released by the project will impact salmon bearing streams like the Tsable River.

Heavy metal leakage and acid rock drainage will have a negative impact on the Baynes Sound watershed as a whole, threatening aquatic life and putting the important Baynes Sound aquaculture industry at risk. This industry employs over 600 people and produces 39% of the oysters and 55% of the manila clams in British Columbia. Their jobs could be wiped out by this project.

Mining, storing, loading and transporting coal has caused serious issues with coal dust in many communities. Coal dust has been linked to a variety of respiratory illnesses, kidney disease and other health problems. Trucks from the mine would pass by seniors' centres and hospitals.

Water is used continuously to wash the raw coal, and this water and chemicals used in the wash process must be disposed of. All this waste water, some of it containing toxic substances, will be dumped into the environment, and will potentially impact local drinking water, salmon bearing streams and marine health. Compliance Energy needs to undertake complete aquifer mapping before the proceeding.

Greenhouse gas emissions from mine construction and operations, including the release of methane gas, must be weighed heavily in this process. Beyond that, the coal from the mine would add over over 80 million tonnes of climate-change-causing greenhouse gases into our

atmosphere. Currently, the Environmental Assessment process does not consider the impacts that projects like this will have on climate change. A process that cannot assess this deeply concerning environmental impact is simply unacceptable.

A project with this many environmental impacts should never be allowed to go ahead. Clean air, clean water and a healthy natural environment are more important than profiting from selling climate-destabilizing coal.