

Raven Underground Coal Mine Project
Andrew Rollo, Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
805-1550 Alberni Street
Vancouver BC V6G 1A5
Email: Raven@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Dear Sir,

We are the Directors and residents of the Triple Rock Land Cooperative, a non-profit affordable housing project on Denman Island, and we are writing to strongly oppose the proposed Raven Coal Mine.

As Denman Island's first successful rezoning for cooperative affordable housing, our mission is to provide socially, environmentally and economically sustainable housing. The prospect of the coal mine now looming puts our whole vision in jeopardy. In particular, members (especially those with children) are worried about the health effects. We also have grave concerns about our water supply – both our well (quality and quantity) and rainwater catchment, which is a lynchpin of our project. Also, we are concerned about the effect of the mine on the health of Baynes Sound, a body of water that is essential both economically (aquaculture, tourism) and environmentally. Noise is another area of concern. So is the carbon footprint of creating and running the mine, transporting the coal, and using the coal in the steel-making process, regardless of where this will take place.

We have read comments that this region needs this mine to provide jobs for young families to keep our schools full. But our members and prospective members say this mine will have the opposite effect – driving away young families and emptying our schools, as concerned parents move away, to literally greener pastures.

We all need and want jobs, but not in this type of industry. We want prosperity, but we want it to come from a healthy community, sustainable lifestyle choices, and a greener economy.

The Comox Valley is one of BC's success stories – a fast growing, thriving community. Its success rests to a large degree on its clean air, clean water, vibrant community, and quiet and unspoiled natural beauty. We don't want to see any of this endangered for a couple of hundred jobs.

There are far too many drawbacks to this coal mine. We ask you to stop its progress immediately. If that is not possible, we ask that you refer the environmental assessment to a joint federal/provincial independent expert Review Panel for full public hearings (CEAR reference number 10-03-55529) and that before any further

consideration is given to the Raven Mine project, comprehensive aquifer mapping and modelling of the entire Raven coal tenure be completed and publically vetted.

Sincerely,

Laura Busheikin, on behalf of Tomas Hajek, Corinne Bjorge, Sean Woods, Karyn Parkinson, Matta Schaal, Rafal Jasinski, Sheelagh MacKenzie, Vali Majd, and Grzegorz Hajdrych

Directors, Triple Rock Land Cooperative

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