

Dear Minister Klein,

We are opposed to the proposed Sio Silica sand extraction project.

We have no expertise in this field, but have a lot invested in the community that this project could affect. We have owned and lived on a rural property in the RM of Springfield for 34 years. We are responsible for our water supply, and depend on our own well. The quality of our life here, and the value of our property and our neighbours' properties depend on maintaining this clean water source.

At all three levels of elections, my husband and I largely base our voting choices on environmental concerns. In the Springfield municipal election in 2022, we voted for candidates we hoped would show sustained and well-informed support for the view that the proposed Sio Silica Sand Extraction Project, and all projects, should not be allowed if they cannot provide guaranteed extensive protection of our water supply over the coming decades.

We were unable to attend the recent CEC hearings in our local communities thanks to a bout of Covid 19. Our generous neighbour sent us summaries of the proceedings and reports. We have deep respect for the meticulous effort and the expertise poured into them. We acknowledge that we cannot personally add any specifics to the science and technical information shared. These are complex issues and can be confusing as reports on both sides claim to be based on fact and differing scientific findings.

However, the overwhelming message we have gleaned from the reports that we have read is that ***this project has the potential to cause permanent damage to our aquifers, and result in irreversible contamination to our environment and ecology.*** We do trust the scientific information used to illustrate the long-term dangers to the community's aquifers and the environment ***far more*** than the science that selectively supports endeavors that will lead to financial profit for individual companies while optimistically suggesting that any possible future problems could be easily fixed.

We have to trust that you and the commission are studying the information, from both sides, with utmost care, and have received extensive input from a range of experts to deepen your understanding. We want to stress that whatever the short-term economic gains there could be, ***the overall risk to all of us should be of paramount concern to all decision makers.***

The company must address all valid questions and concerns and offer credible guarantees before any permission is given. If the project should be stopped, then it needs to be stopped.

Please help all of us by insisting on transparency and on-going responsibility on the part of Sio Silica. If allowed to happen, damage to our aquifers cannot be undone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nan Anderson

Rick Anderson

