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Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 8:55 PM

To: info@mhtrust.org

Subject: New submission from General Contact

Name

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Message

January 19, 2021

To the Executive Director, Board Members and CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Organization, Trust Land Office:

I am writing to comment on your recent Document of decision # 0000 743?, Mining lease sales to Avidian Corp in the Amanita area, # FM-0037 and MF-0047.

I urge you to take action A, which is NO ACTION on selling mineral right leases on these properties. Following are several reasons (not necessarily in order of importance).

#1. The Detrimental Impact on Neighborhoods: The Fairbanks rural lifestyle is chosen for quiet and closeness to trails for recreation and berries. Active mining exploration and activities are a huge disruption in quality of life for all these families who have built their homes and lives in neighborhoods adjacent to your lands.

#2. Large Impact On Small, Family-Run Alaska businesses:

- 2A: Fairbanks Public Food Sources: Arctic Roots Farm is run by Brad and Christine St. Pierre, the Alaska Farm Family of the Year 2019. This young farm family grows tons of organic food for the Fairbanks community. Brad is the manager for the Tanana Valley Farmer's Market and they are also a major vendor at the Market. Arctic Roots also sells produce to institutions in the area, and across the state. Their farm is within .25 miles of FM-0036. Any mining exploration or development could directly impact the purity of their organic crops. (arsenic: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/arsenic-mine-tailings-and-health>)(<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40726-019-00108-5>)

Lammer's orchards of Clair's Cultivars is the pioneer orchard in interior Alaska. It is remarkable to have so many varieties of apples, plums and cherries grown in the Far North! Clair was truly the "Johnny Appleseed" for Alaska; although he has passed away, his family opens this orchard to the public as a U-Pick, and provides hundreds of pounds of fruit for Fairbanks families. This farm is within .25 miles of FM-0036 and under a mile from FM-00-47. This orchard was established in the 1980s; you can't just re-plant or move an established orchard. There is extreme danger that mining dust may impact pollination, as well as possible heavy metals to drift and contaminate this important food source for Fairbanks

To the SE of FM-0047 is Risse Greenhouses: this longtime Fairbanks family I know supports NAMI and the mission of Metal Trust Lands, but they are also a major contributor to the Fairbanks food supply. Their bagged soils need to be free of airborne contaminants, they raise seedlings for thousands of home gardens, sell their starts through Fred Meyer and also host thousands of customers at their greenhouses, just over 1 mile SE of FM-0047.

Considering these mineral leases, have you thought of the impact on the Fairbanks food source if these areas are mined?

- 2B: Another small local business off Amanita Road is a premier recording studio in Fairbanks, 10th Planet

Recording. Our daughter recorded two albums there (she opened for KD Lange and Indio girls in Fairbanks in 2010-2012). Granting these leases will greatly disrupt their business: airplanes, drilling, blasting, heavy equipment, are completely incompatible with sensitive musical recording! We are planning more projects with 10th Planet right now that could be disrupted by such mining exploration and development. We may be inconvenienced as customers, but the owners would face a major loss to their small business as a direct result of your decision on these leases.

That is only 4 small businesses that I know that would be impacted; there may be many more.

I believe other people may also be writing about the many other negative impacts these leases would have:

- No mention that these parcels are much closer to private homeowners than the Fort Know mine.
- Incompatibility being next to the Audubon Reigel Nature Preserve
- Distressing noise pollution and other potential health hazards to neighbors- longtime property owners who in most cases literally built homes here. There will be a huge mental and physical anguish and property value loss for all neighborhood residents within two miles of this area.
- Problems with physical access over very narrow privately maintained roads
- Degradation of the traditional, established Gilmore Commuter trail by Avidian trucks in 2019. This is not an example of positive "robust history".
- The uncertainty of no explanation of what the 3 phases might consist of: if Avidian is given rights to explore, are they given priority or direct access to development rights? If so, the TLO must establish what those parameters will be – and who ensures environmental safeguards and liability?

#3 : The PROCESS of assigning this decision, and total lack of notice to the property owners directly impacted by your lease decision is appalling. Your Trust was put in place to support good causes, improving mental health of Alaskans, but you still have a responsibility to be a good steward of the lands in your trust. That includes clear and effective communication with the Alaskan public, ESPECIALLY those who live nearby your lands.

AMENDMENT January 21, 2021:

I was very happy to read today that you have cancelled the mineral leases for these parcels. But please do take all these comments to heart as you manage future leases in this area, and other other lands with existing mineral leases.

Sincerely,
Mary Ver Hoef
Fairbanks, Alaska