

Honourable Mark Parent, Minister of Environment  
381B Main Street  
Kentville, Nova Scotia  
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Jan 18, 2007

Dear Hon. Mark Parent,

**RE: Strip Mining of the Avon Peninsula.**

Through my involvement with the Ecology Action Centre and ties with the Avon Peninsula Watershed Preservation Society, I have recently been informed of the devastating speed in which the Avon Peninsula is being raped for gypsum. I am aware of the plans United States Gypsum, through their NS operator Fundy Gypsum, to expand their present operations in the Avon Peninsula and extract 50 million tonnes (maybe more) of gypsum from an area zoned as Agricultural Priority One, AR1. I am also aware that clear cutting and other mining preparations are occurring before a full environmental assessment has been conducted.

This is appalling.

The actions of Fundy Gypsum seriously threaten this rich agriculture land, the lives of Avondale, Poplar Grove, and Belmont residents, the amazing existing watershed and the intricately interwoven ecosystems present on the peninsula.

I implore you, as Minister of Environment, to reject the Fundy Gypsum proposal to strip mine the Avon Peninsula. Also, demand a full-scale federal environmental assessment, detailing all the impacts. This proposal is of high public concern, not just to those in Hants County but to all Nova Scotians.

This current catastrophe is an example of the desperate times farmers are experiencing when they forced to sell off land as they are unable to make a profit growing and producing the food that feeds your constituents. I understand the Fundy Gypsum employs local residents and that this proposal creates jobs, but are these jobs sustainable? Where will residents go after all the gypsum has been extracted?

Who will feed your constituents after all the farms are destroyed?

Thank you for your time in reading this and thank you in advance for the action you will take on this issue.

Rebecca Green  
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C.c. Honourable Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture  
Honourable David Morse, Minister of Natural Resources  
Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Premier