RECEIVED
MAY 18 2012
CITY OF SCANDIA

HELLO,

WITH THIS LETTER I JOIN THE MANY OTHERS WHO QUESTION THE VALIDITY & ACCURACY OF THE CURRENT EIS STUDY BEFORE THE SCANDIA COUNCIL. AS IT STANDS, IT APPEARS TO BE FLAWED AND DECIDELY LEANING IN FAVOR OF TILLER. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS ADDRESS SOME OF MY CONCERNS.

(I) TRAFFIC:

I LIVE VERY CLOSE TO THE INTERSECTION OF 97 & 95 AND ON THE DATES & TIMES LISTED BELOW, I DID A TRAFFIC COUNT OF ALL VEHICLES TRAVELLING EAST & WEST. I DIDN'T COUNT NORTH/SOUTH TRAFFIC ON 95 BUT THERE WERE MANY VEHICLES OF ALL TYPES MOVING THROUGH THAT INTERSECTION AS WELL, ADDING EVEN MORE TO THE COUNT LISTED BELOW.

4/29/2012 BETWEEN 10-11AM. - 144 CARS, 47 GRAVEL TRUCKS, 32 SEMIS
5/2/2012 BETWEEN 10-11AM. 205 CARS, 34 GRAVEL TRUCKS, 45 SEMIS.
5/2/2012 BETWEEN 3:30-4:30PM. 355 CARS, 20 GRAVEL, 25 SEMIS, 14 CYCLES
5/4/2012 BETWEEN 10-12AM. 251 CARS, 42 GRAVEL, 32 SEMIS, 1 CYCLE.

FOR MUCH OF APRIL & ALL OF MAY SO FAR, ALL TRAFFIC HAS BEEN QUITE HEAVY. DUE IN PART I'M GUESSING TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION TO THE NORTH DETOURING THE TRAFFIC & TO SOME TRUCKERS USING LESS TRAVELLED HIGHWAYS IN ORDER TO AVOID TROOPERS & INSPECTIONS. WITH THIS HEAVIER TRAFFIC, WE HEAR MANY LOUD ENGINES, ENGINE BRAKES, ROAD NOISE, FUMES, AND HAVE DIFFICULTY ENTERING/EXITING OUR DRIVEWAY. PLUS THERE HAVE BEEN 2 ACCIDENTS ALREADY. THESE INCONVENIENCES AND INCIDENTS SHOW US ALL WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE IF TILLER PUTS 560 OR MORE TRUCK TRIPS ON TOP OF THE NORMAL TRAFFIC. ALSO, NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE GRAVEL PITS OWNED BY OTHER COMPANIES WHO USE THESE HIGHWAYS. WHAT IF THEY ALSO HAVE AN "EVENT" AND HAVE HEAVY HAUL

OVER

PERIODS?

REGARDING THE ABOVE, WHAT MODEL WAS USED FOR THIS E.I.S. TO EVALUATE THE TRAFFIC AT THE 97/95 INTERSECTION? IS IT CORRECT THAT THE STUDY USED DID NOT INCLUDE THE POTENTIAL TRAFFIC CROSSING 97 AS THOROUGHLY AS THEY SHOULD BUT FOCUSED MAINLY ON RIGHT TURN/LEFT TURN TRAFFIC? WOULD BY INCLUDING THE CROSSING ISSUE CHANGE THE MN. STATE OR COUNTY'S RULING? DID YOU NOTICE HOW "ATTRACTIVE" THE GRAVEL PITS ON 95 NORTH OF SCANDIA ARE? DEEP & UGLY WITH NOISE, AIR POLLUTION, AND HEAVY TRUCKS CAUSING DANGEROUS & AGGRAVATING TRAFFIC CONGESTION. JUST THE THING TO HAVE RIGHT AT THE 'FRONT DOOR' TO THE SCANDIA COMMUNITY!

(2) PROPERTY VALUES.

I AND MANY OTHERS QUESTION & DOUBT THE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN IN THE E.I.S. A DIFFERENT MARKET STUDY THAN THE ONE THEY USED SHOWED A MUCH LARGER DROP IN VALUES THAN SUGGESTED. WHY WASN'T THE MORE PERTINENT STUDY ALTERNATIVE WHICH WAS PRESENTED AT THE MOST RECENTLY HELD PUBLIC MEETING USED? I CAN PERSONALLY ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT TRAFFIC SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTS PROPERTY VALUES. WITHIN THE LAST 3 YRS WE SOLD A HOME AND BOUGHT A HOME BOTH ARE ON ROADS WITH HIGH TRAFFIC. EACH SOLD AT LEAST 20% BELOW MARKET DIRECTLY BECAUSE OF IT.

(3) AIR QUALITY:

EXISTING E.I.S. ACKNOWLEDGES A SLIGHT RISK FOR THOSE LIVING WITHIN ¼ MI. OF PROPOSED MINE. CONSIDERING MUCH OF THE OTHER DATA INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT E.I.S. IS QUESTIONABLE AND UNDERSTATED, THE HEALTH RISK IS QUITE POSSIBLY

WORSE THAN STATED AS WELL. WE LIVE WITHIN THAT ¼ MI RADIUS WHICH INCLUDES my SISTER WHO HAS C.O.P.D. OUR fear & CONCERN IS THAT HER CONDITION COULD WORSEN DUE TO pollution CAUSED BY MINE ACTIVITY, SHOULD THIS UNFORTUNATELY OCCUR, LEGAL ACTION ON HER BEHALF WOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

④ OTHER QUESTIONS:

① WILL TILLER SUE IF DENIED PERMIT?

② IS COUNSIL CONCERNED ABOUT BEING SUED?

③ DOES LEAGUE of CITIES PAY LEGAL COSTS if MEMBER CITY IS SUED?

④ WHY WAS ZAVORAL PIT closed IN THE first PLACE?

⑤ WHY DIDN'T OR DON'T THOSE SAME REASONS apply NOW?

⑥ WHY WASN'T ZAVORAL MADE TO clean-up PIT OR fined?

⑦ IF TILLER IS ALLOWED TO RESUME MINING, WILL IT BE OPEN TO PUBLIC OR for TILLERS USE ONLY?

⑧ WHAT IS TILLERS HISTORY of PROPER & SAFE MANAGEMENT? (A VERY APPROPRIATE QUESTION IN LIGHT of THEIR CURRENT PROBLEM of A BLOWOUT of BERM AT THEIR SITE IN WISC)

⑨ IN SPITE of TILLERS ASSURANCES, WONT THERE BE MAJOR & REAL CONCERNS ABOUT pollution from BLOWOUTS AT ZAVORAL SITE?

⑩ 1.2 MILLION TONS TAKEN @ 4.00 OR MORE @ TON. AND HOW MUCH DOES SCANDIA COMMUNITY RECIEVE IN COMPENSATION for ALL THE SACRAFICES & INCONVENIANCE?

⑪ DOES SCANDIA HAVE TO MONITOR TRUCKS, ETC. AT OWN EXPENSE?

⑫ IS THERE NOW A POSSIBLE 1000 GAL fuel TANK TO BE ON MINE AFTER ASSURANCES THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN?

⑬ HOW DO YOU TAKE OVER 1 MILLION TONS of MATERIAL from AN AREA ALREADY DEEP AND STILL RESTORE IT TO ANY USABLE CONDITION? IN ADDITION, WITH A MINIMUM of 4" TOPSOIL OVER SAND, IT WOULD TAKE MASSIVE AMOUNTS of WATER TO ESTABLISH & MAINTAIN planted VEGETATION OVER A 114 ACRE SITE.

(14) WHY DOESN'T NEW COMP PLAN SUPERCEDE OUTDATED PLAN? (PARTICULARLY IN A MATTER THIS IMPORTANT)

(15) ARE RESPONSES MADE PUBLIC?

I FEEL ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO ASK IF ALL OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS CAN BE TOTALLY OBJECTIVE IN THEIR DECISION MAKING. I MENTION THIS BECAUSE I RECALL STATEMENTS BEING MADE BY JIM SCHNEIDER WHILE STILL CAMPAIGNING TO BE ELECTED TO THE SCANDIA CITY COUNCIL. TO PARAPHRASE: HE SAID SCANDIA HAS THE SAND SO WE SHOULD USE IT. I BELIEVE HE ALSO SAID SCANDIA NEEDS IT.

WHILE I TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH HIS STATEMENTS, I RESPECT HIS HONESTY. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE ALL OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF SCANDIA, ITS' CITIZENS, AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITES AT HEART. SO, IN LIGHT OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT, BOTH REAL & POTENTIAL TO THIS AREA PLUS THE OVERWHELMING PUBLIC OPINION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE RE-OPENING OF THE ZAVORAL MINE, I BELIEVE THE COUNCIL WILL DENY TILLERS PERMIT ONCE AND FOR ALL AND THUS WILL PROTECT THIS AREA FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THANK YOU

R M GILBERTSON
16140 N. SCANDIA TR.
SCANDIA, MN. 55073
651-433-5639