

Attached is a letter of application to speak at the Grassy Mountain Mine hearing from Mike Judd of the Beaver Mines area, Alberta. Mr. Judd does not have a computer, nor does he have ready access to one, so he asked me to write this letter for him and email it to you on his behalf. I have reviewed the wording with him, made his requested changes, and initialed the letter for him. If you wish to check with him about anything in his application, please get in touch with him by telephone.

Mr Judd is a proud, self-effacing man who tends to downplay his abilities and knowledge, so in lieu of his resumé please allow me to give you my following personal endorsement. I believe Mike Judd can provide the panel with personal knowledge and a point of view relevant to the proposed mine that no other participant can match.

I have known Mike Judd as a friend and professional colleague for over 35 years. He was variously a working cowboy, geologist's field assistant, guide, outfitter, carpenter, logger, house builder (he built his 2 log cabins and his 2-storey log home with the aid of a friend), amateur musician, and for many years has been an accomplished landscape painter. He is a knowledgeable naturalist and a remarkably successful environmental activist. He was, to give just two examples, responsible to a largely unappreciated degree, for getting the Castle River Country re-designated as wilderness parkland by single-handedly initiating effective protests. He also started regulatory actions preventing Shell from divesting its gas production system clean-up liabilities to a far financially weaker company, thereby saving Albertans from being stuck with those costs. He is one of the best read people I know, and though he did not attend university, he shows a breadth of knowledge simply unmatched by my university-educated colleagues.

Mike can speak to the cumulative impact of nonrenewable resource development and its human cost from deeply personal experience. His outfitting business was ruined by the combined effects of gasfield development, logging, and recreational off-roading. Tourists, it seems, simply do not pay to visit destroyed landscapes. He can also speak poignantly to the impact of poor regulatory decisions, having endured three critical sour gas pipeline ruptures close to his home, which placed his very life in jeopardy. These were pipelines approved as safe by the regulator presently known as the Alberta Energy Regulator, which certified their safety despite repeated concerns raised by Mr Judd and others. Regulatory decisions have serious, potentially life-threatening consequences. The joint review panel needs to hear how failures affect the people that must live with them.

Finally, the panel needs to hear that there are positives to NOT having an open-pit coal mine; that there are other benefits of not mining that more than compensate for any temporary jobs mines may create. As a resident living inside an industrial landscape that was once almost pristine during his lifetime, Mr Judd can provide the panel with his unique insights into those benefits.

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# Mike Judd

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July 20, 2020

Joint Review Panel

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada & Alberta Energy Regulator

E-mail: IAAC.GrassyMountain.AEIC@canada.ca

## **Application to participate in the Grassy Mountain Mine Hearing**

I would like to appear at the hearing and present a statement to the panel and participants about what it has been like for me to grow up on Alberta's beautiful Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, to make my living in and off the land for years as an outfitter in a spectacular wild landscape, and have it overrun by industrial activity. Mining, cattle grazing, logging, recreational off-highway vehicle use, and oil and gas production have created destruction everywhere you look. I want people to understand what it is they are trading away forever in return for maybe a decade or two of work and a legacy of permanently ruined rivers and land.

People need to hear — you need to hear — what is forever going to be lost to the people of this corner of Alberta from your approval of this mine, so that you can understand why it must not be approved.

My family has lived and ranched in the Beaver Mines area for over 100 years. I was born here and have lived here for well over half that time. I have seen and experienced the degradation of this beautiful place by industry. I have no wish to see our wild areas reduced to the size of postage-stamps surrounded by industrial wreckage just to make an already rich foreign corporation richer, leaving us with an unfixable mess.

Respectfully,

<Signature  
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*for*

Mike Judd