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Crook County
Community Development

Wednesday March 9th, 2022

Crook County Community Development
Mr. Will Van Vactor, Director
By email to: WillVanVactor@co.crook.or.us

Re: Knife River Mining Permit for 6487 Lamonta Rd, Prineville, OR

Dear Mr. Van Vactor:

This letter is intended to shed light on a situation represented by Mr. Dick Zimmerlee in materials he submitted to the Knife River permit record on March 1, 2022.

On April 1, 2020 I leased my property to Mr. Zimmerlee with the condition that I had already leased the farm ground to Knife River to mine sand and gravel. My agreement with Mr. Zimmerlee allows him to live in the residence on the property and farm the land until Knife River needs the land for mining. The lease with Mr. Zimmerlee requires him to work with and around Knife River's operations. I am confident that Mr. Zimmerlee understood that his use of my farm would be subordinate to Knife River's mining operations, that is, assuming Knife River succeeded in permitting the property.

I have quietly observed Mr. Zimmerlee's testimony at the public hearings and reviewed the documents he has submitted to the record. While Mr. Zimmerlee has the right to speak his mind, Mr. Zimmerlee's statements and actions do not represent my position as the landowner. I have been in close contact with Knife River and its experts and I believe they have done a thorough job of investigating and addressing the issues raised by Mr. Zimmerlee and other neighbors.

With regard to mining operations and work to be done to mine and reclaim my property I want to point out that although I am now retired, I was a general engineering contractor from 1964 until 2005. I have built a good number of projects that involved similar matters to those being discussed in this case. Large scale excavation, land forming, land reclamation, shallow well construction, heavy equipment and trucks were my business for more than 40 years. I am familiar with the soil and drainage conditions on my property, including the spring area on the north side of the property where Mr. Zimmerlee got his tractor stuck. This is a low area that has always been wet. It would not be difficult to get a tractor stuck there. I am confident that Knife River has the resources and expertise to successfully mine and reclaim my property. If I didn't believe they could do this I would not have agreed to allow it. I support this project and encourage the county to approve the conditional use permit and allow Knife River to mine the sand and gravel resource on my property.

Respectfully,

Sandy Vanier