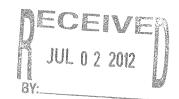
June 28, 2012 Rushford, Minnesota

Governor Mark Dayton State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

Request to Governor: Frac sand moratorium



We are deeply concerned about the threat that frac sand mining, processing and transportation pose to our health and safety, farmland, high quality of life, and beautiful landscape in southeast Minnesota. We write to you as southeast Minnesota citizens attending a Land Stewardship Project organizing meeting tonight, June 28th, in Rushford.

The frac sand industry, driven by the corporate oil and gas industry, has already gained a strong foothold in western Wisconsin. The negative effects on neighboring farms and communities there have been significant. We need to avoid that here in Minnesota and to be proactive about protecting our state. We know what an overreach of corporate power could do to our land, people and small towns.

Frac sand mines and processing centers have been proposed throughout southeast Minnesota, including in Goodhue, Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Houston and Fillmore counties. Several frac sand processing facilities already exist in Winona, and at least one frac sand mine is already operating in the region. Countless trucks carrying frac sand from Wisconsin come across the Winona Interstate Bridge every day.

Public concerns about the frac sand industry are numerous and growing—air quality and health effects from silica dust, water quality, traffic, road damage, road safety, preservation of native ecology, damage to local farm and small town economies, effects on neighboring property values, and a greater inability for beginning farmers to find affordable land if mining becomes commonplace. We need a very strong response from public agencies in the State of Minnesota that put the priority on the protection of our land, air and water and don't allow the industry to create the problems it has in Wisconsin.

We now ask you to call for an immediate halt and a 3-year moratorium on frac sand mining and processing in Minnesota, at least until a Generic Environmental Impact Statement can be completed that would outline the hazards of this industry and the policies needed to protect the State and its people. To follow-up, please contact Doug Nopar at the Land Stewardship Project in Lewiston – 507-523-3366.

Thank you.

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Donna Juckley
Robert Johnson Hormony
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