

Planning and Zoning Department
320 Mongo Street
Bronson, FL 32621

Levy County Planning Commission,

April 27, 2023

We are writing this letter to express our strong opposition in regards to PETITION NO SE 23-01, the request for a special exception for a major mining operation. We would also like to voice our legal standing in this issue should it be permitted. We feel as property owners on the border of two of four of these mentioned parcels, that this mining operation will have a direct impact on our land from possible land erosion, the dangers/effects that it will bring to the natural habitat, noise pollution, and air and water quality. Not to mention the possible decrease of our property value and use being this close to a mining site.

With mining, the possibility of land erosion and the natural habitat effects to my property and surrounding areas is very probable. As with all erosion, it also disturbs existing plant life and habitat that is in direct contact. This area is very well known for the gopher tortoise. How will this effect their populations? They are currently protected under state law. Will this exception exclude them from the law as well? From my understanding, as a lifetime Florida resident, any land clearing or development being executed must file for permits before capturing and relocating this species. Is the FWC also aware of this petition? Have they been notified of this proposed operation? These parcels also border an agricultural research center. How will they and future agricultural be effected by this mining.

With heavy industrial activities, the probability of noise pollution is very high. The equipment being used alone produces a considerable amount of noise to be disruptive to the peacefulness that this area brings. Not to mention the extra roads and large vehicles that will be going in and out of this operation. All of which have a major environmental impact. We have lived in many areas of Florida and specifically purchased our property with the noise levels in mind. The tranquility of nature that surrounds us is what brought us here. The parcels in question directly border our property. There is no doubt in our minds that we will be impacted by this decision.

With strip mining, the probability of air and water pollution is also very high. Excavation of minerals requires digging, which produces dust. Again, our property directly borders these parcels. We, in no way desire to breathe in the dust/particulates that will inherently be created when digging into the ground. Will there be any types of buffers put up in our area to avoid this dust from being dispersed into our neighboring property? Will we now have layers of sand covering our homes and vehicles. What about the wildlife? Will they also have to breathe in the polluted air? We are closely located to Goethe State Forest. How will this mining effect the natural habitat in that area? Air quality is a concern for many residents as new development is always occurring. This operation will create more of a local issue for the surrounding residents and habitat. The amount of minerals in the dust and particulates created, can cause breathing issues for all those closely effected whether human or animal. Possible water pollution can also occur through mining due to collapse of the water table. Will this have an effect on our local springs?