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Via Email: daschleman@noblesville.in.us

City of Noblesville Board of Zoning Appeals

RE: Public Testimony of the Hoosier Environmental Council on the Proposed Variance of Land Use Application for the Beaver Gravel Pit, Application No. BZNA 0070-2023

Good evening,

My name is Susie McGovern and I'm a representative from the Hoosier Environmental Council.

We are an Indiana based non-profit that advocates for sustainable economic development.

Our organization shares community and environmental concerns about the proposed mining operation.

Mining is one of the most significant land-altering forces on the planet, contributing heavily to environmental issues such as climate change, habitat loss, and water pollution.

There are well-documented cases in which communities and ecosystems have experienced negative impacts from mining. This is not a matter of whether there could be consequences, but rather, what do those consequences look like?

Mining removes all the vegetation and underlying materials such as sand and gravel, leaving the land inhospitable for any uses other than restoration, which is a long-term, costly endeavor.

Sand and gravel are natural materials that filter and purify our water resources, so it's important that we keep them in the ground in areas where water pollution is already a problem.

The mining will occur near the White River which is already burdened by several mining operations. Data from IDEM shows that this portion of the White River is listed as impaired, which means it is suffering from persistent water pollution.

The mining will occur on agricultural land that has sat undeveloped for decades. This agricultural land contains forested areas and is surrounded by wetlands, so it's likely that mining will disrupt wildlife habitat through noise, air pollution, and the creation of impassable terrain.

HEC recommends that this variance request be denied until it can be clearly demonstrated that the benefits outweigh the environmental risks.