

September 18, 2018

VIA U.S. MAIL

Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: *S Bar Ranch - Cat Creek Energy, LLC (Elmore County, Idaho)*

Dear Senator Crapo:

My wife and I have been residents of the State of Idaho for 30 years. In 2015 and 2017 through S Bar Ranch, LLC, an Idaho limited liability company (“S Bar Ranch”) which we own, we purchased approximately 3,000 acres of land located in Elmore County, Idaho. Our property is located on the South side of Highway 20 near Packer Butte in the beautiful Camas Prairie.

I am writing this letter seeking your assistance, if possible, to prevent irreparable damage to one of Idaho’s crown jewels, the Camas Prairie.

Cat Creek Energy, LLC, an Idaho limited liability company (“CCE”) whose principal owner is John Faulkner of Gooding, Idaho, has proposed to develop an integrated hydro, wind, and solar electric generating facility on private and public land located in Elmore County, Idaho. We have been advised that one of Mr. Faulkner’s partners and CCE’s representative agent in this proposed development is James T. Carkulis of Helena, Montana.

On August 17, 2016, the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission, after public hearings and based in part on reports and comments from various governmental agencies and private entities, unanimously (6-0) denied CCE’s applications for five (5) conditional use permits for: (i) transmission lines, (ii) a pump storage hydro electric generating facility, (iii) a PV solar electrical generating facility, (iv) a wind turbine electrical generating facility and (v) a substation (collectively the “Project”).

CCE appealed the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission’s decision to the Board of the Elmore County Commissioners. The Elmore County Commissioners subsequently overruled the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission and approved the five (5) applications for conditional use permits as requested by CCE.

Following the approval of the Conditional Use Permits (“CUPS”), at CCE’s request that one of the three County Commissioners participate in the negotiation of the Development Agreement which is a condition of approval of the CUPS, Commissioner Hofer recused himself from voting on this Project. With Commissioner Hofer’s recusal, this proposed \$1.6 Billion Dollar Project has been approved by the remaining two County Commissioners.

The frustrating thing to me, to my neighbors in the Camas Prairie, and to many citizens of Elmore County, who have voiced their opposition to the proposed Project is that, in our opinion, the Elmore County Commissioner’s have not paid any attention to the comments made about the proposed Project by various state and federal agencies, private foundations and the public which have questioned the affect that this Project will have on wildlife, such as but not limited to, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, sage-grouse, and upon rainbow trout, kokanee, bull trout, and other fish in Anderson Ranch Reservoir and the South Fork of the Boise River. Instead, the Elmore County Commissioners have accepted the majority of the comments about the Project and requests made by CCE supposedly because the Project will tremendously benefit the County.

I could go on and on about my reasons for being opposed to this Project but I want to be respectful of your valuable time.

For your information I am enclosing:

1. a copy of the February 1, 2016, letter from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to the Elmore County Land Use and Planning Department;
2. a copy of Cat Creek Energy Wildlife Management Plan Review dated February 9, 2016, prepared by POWER Engineers and submitted to the Elmore County Land Use and Building Department;
3. a copy of the Elmore County Wildlife Mitigation Plan for Cat Creek Energy Generation Facility dated December 5, 2015, prepared by CCE’s consultants;
4. a copy of a letter dated April 26, 2016, from the American Bird Conservancy and the Golden Eagle Audubon Society directed to the Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and
5. a copy of an article dated April 16, 2016, written by Pete Zenowsky for the Idaho Statesman.

The Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the information set forth in enclosures 1-4 and based on this information and other information presented to it unanimously decided that this Project was not good for the wildlife, the fish, the environment and the citizens of Elmore County, Idaho.

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I believe that this Project has not been fully vetted by the Federal and State agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Environmental Protection Agency, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Public Utility Commission, and the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources, who oversee our Federal government's and State's critical wildlife, fish habitat, and environment. It is my opinion, and the opinion of many other people that this Project should not proceed until all parties fully understand what affect this Project will have on our land and the citizens of Elmore County.

I greatly appreciate your time, consideration, and input.

Very truly yours,



Chris R. Stephens
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