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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

255 Texas Street Apt H347
Rapid City, SD 57701
July 26, 2010

Environmental Quality Council
122 West 25th Street
Herchler Building, Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

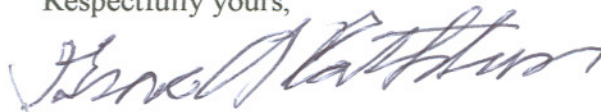
Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

We are writing to express our deep concerns on the possible mining operations being considered in Tinton Mining District and headwaters of Sand Creek, WY. And, we strongly support the Petition to designate the Sand Creek area as Very Rare or Uncommon. Both of us have a long-standing family association with Sand Creek going back to the early 1900's and find that the Petition gives a realistic appraisal of the unique and valuable nature of this area.

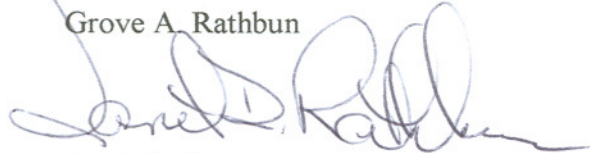
Further, we feel this unique and valuable asset would be in jeopardy from any possible mine discharge into its drainage system. This possibility is always present regardless of efforts to prevent a discharge.

Therefore, we earnestly request your acceptance of the Petition.

Respectfully yours,



Grove A. Rathbun



Janet D. Rathbun