

From: "Robert Hurt" <archenv@acegroup.cc>

Subject: FW: The Economic Vitality of Frac Sand Mining in Winona County

Date: August 12, 2016 at 4:42:59 PM CDT

FYI

Hello All,

This is a copy of an email I sent to the Winona County Commissioners and the Winona County Planning Commission yesterday regarding the economic vitality of frac sand mining in Winona County. I thought you might be interested in seeing another way of looking at this particular topic as compared to how the mining industry folks have been presenting its data to the county officials. As you most likely know, Winona County is currently looking at the possibility of putting a ban on frac sand mining in the county. Please feel free to share this email.

Take care,
Bob

August 11, 2016

TO:

Winona County Commissioners
Winona County Planning Commission
Winona County Planning Department

RE: Economic Vitality of Frac Sand Mining in Winona County

Dear Winona County Officials and members of the Winona County Planning Department:

Since a number of industry and business individual have recently been testifying against the proposed ban on frac sand mining within Winona County, and since they have been providing this testimony on the assumption that frac sand mining will bring great economic benefit to Winona County, I would therefore like to present a different picture of what these Bluffland landscapes of Winona County region offer regarding the economic vitality of this region.

As some of you may know, I own and operate Robert J. Hurt Landscape Photography which is located in Winona County in the Mississippi River community of Dakota, Minnesota. A very significant portion of my business is providing custom aerial landscape photography as well as custom stock photography for well known regional business such as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, the Mayo Clinic in La Crosse,

Gundersen Health Systems in La Crosse, the La Crosse Area Development Corporation, the Winona Convention and Visitors Bureau, La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Viterbo University, the University of Wisconsin, and the World Headquarters of Altra Federal Credit Union in Onalaska just to name a few.

As it turns out there are two main purposes that all these businesses (and many more regional businesses - see the attached document) contract for my photography services which illustrate the magnificent beauty of our Bluffland landscapes in and around Winona County. The first purpose for which they use my Bluffland landscape photography is to effectively recruit the very best doctors and the very best corporate administrators to move here from locations from around the country. They can bring in the very best of the best because they can show that this is one of the most beautiful regions in the entire country, and thus it offers an outstanding quality of life for these talented individuals and their families. The second reason that these businesses use my photography services is that they can more effectively bring in new clients and users of their services. For example, Viterbo University competes with other colleges and universities across the country for new students each and every year. They have told me that although they offer an excellent educational experience . . . that they need that extra boost of also offering the one-of-a-kind amazing natural environment of this Blufflands region that few other locations can even come close to matching. They are sold on the importance of having an unspoiled pristine environmental setting for their businesses. These businesses are thriving in many different ways, and in effect, have not only added to the quality of life in our communities . . . but they have also added millions of dollars to help amplify the prosperity of our local economy. Interestingly, at the same time of being successful they have effectively helped to preserve . . . rather than destroy . . . the beautiful natural surroundings that they so dearly depend upon for the success of their businesses.

I hope that you not only look deep into your hearts to realize the importance of being good stewards of the land, but hopefully that you also realize that we . . . along with these businesses . . . do not want to kill the goose that laid the all important golden egg.

Thank you for your consideration in this very serious matter.

Sincerely,
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