

To:

Jan Tore Sanner, Minister of Local Government and Modernization

Tine Sundtoft, Minister of Climate and Environment

Oslo, 2015

Time to protect the Norwegian fjords and our common sea

As a diverse group of environmental organizations in the countries surrounding the North and Barents Sea, we are writing to you to urge you not to allow dumping of mining waste in the Norwegian fjords.

We are aware of the plans to dump 300 million tons of toxic mining waste in Førdefjord on the West coast, and 30 million tons in Repparfjord in the North of Norway, and are deeply worried about the consequences this will have for the marine life and the ecosystems of the fjords, which are an integrated and important part of the wider ocean which we all depend on.

The Norwegian fjords are internationally known as a premier tourism destination, having received several awards from National Geographic because of their pristine and beautiful nature, combined with the local culture. Førdefjord is located in the centre of this world-renowned fjord landscape, hosting a rich biodiversity of several endangered IUCN red listed species, important cod stocks, Atlantic salmon, sea eagles, shoals of porpoise and orcas. Fisheries and sea food production is an important industry, and at the same time the local village Vevring is famous for its arts exhibitions and vibrant network of artists.

Norway is one of the world's premier seafood nations, based on the clean fjords and coast, contributing to the world's food supply with 38 million meals of seafood every day. The fjords and their connected rivers are also very important for the Atlantic salmon, which Norway has a special responsibility to protect. As both Førdefjorden and Repparfjord are designated "National salmon fjords" it is especially important to keep the ecosystems in these fjords healthy. The Atlantic salmon is also itself the foundation of an important tourism sector through salmon fishing.

Dumping of toxic mining waste therefore not only threatens the species-rich ecosystems of the fjords, but also existing industries in fisheries, seafood and tourism, and thereby the livelihoods of a large number of people. We have problems understanding why Norway, usually known for good environmental standards, would want to be one of only five countries in the world still to dispose of mining waste in sub-marine environments. It is in the world's interest that Norway stops dumping toxic mining waste into the sea.

We take note of the fact that the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Directorate of Fisheries and the Institute of Marine Research are all opposing the plans to dump mining waste in Førdefjord, and we urge you to listen to these experts and protect Førdefjord and the other Norwegian fjords against the dumping of mining waste, which includes large amounts of chemicals and heavy metals.

Sincerely

Friends of the Earth International

Jagoda Munić (chairperson)

Greenpeace International

Kumi Naidoo (Executive Director)

Friends of the Earth Europe

Magda Stoczkiewicz (Director)

Young Friends of the Earth Europe

Maruska Mileta (Steering group member)

Birdlife Europe

Angelo Caserta (Regional Director)

European Environmental Bureau

Jeremy Wates (Secretary General)

Ecoropa (Europe)

Christine von Weizsaecker (President)

International Public Organization

“Ecopartnership” (Belarus)

Alina Bushmovich (Chief Executive)

Clean water (Belarus)

Konstantsin Chykalau (Director)

**Association of agronomists and tourismologists
of Republic of Srpska "Rada" (Bosnia)**

Slaven Jelić (President)

Center for Environment (Bosnia)

Natasa Crnkovic (President)

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (Bulgaria)

Radostina Tzenova (Director)

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales(UK)

Nia Stephens (People and Wildlife Officer)

North Sea Wildlife Trusts (UK)

Dr Leigh Michael Howarth

Buglife (UK)

Matt Shardlow (Chief Executive)

NGO Ecoclub (Ukraine)

Andriy Martynyuk (Chief of the Board)

MiningWatch Canada

Jamie Kneen (Co-manager)

Hnuti DUHA (Czech Republic)

Jiri Kozelouh (campaigns director)

Estonian Green Movement (Estonia)

Meriliis Kotkas (Board member)

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz(BUND, Germany)

Olaf Bandt (Director)

Rettet den Regenwald e. V. (Germany)

Reinhard Behrend

Forum Ökologie & Papier (Germany)

Evelyn Schönheit und Jupp Trauth

Pro Wildlife e.V. (Germany)

Dr. Christoph Schmidt (Chair)

Landvernd, Icelandic Environment Association

(Iceland)

Gudmundur Hordur Gudmundsson (Chair)

Bellona-Murmansk (Russia)

Andrey Zolotkov (Chairman)

Kola Environmental Centre (Russia)

Alexandr Zaitsev (Chairperson)

Russian Social-Ecological Union (Russia)

Elena Kruglikova (Cochairperson)

Jordens Vänner (Sweden)

Ellie Cijvat (Chair)

Pro Natura (Switzerland)

Dr Urs Leugger-Eggimann (Director)

BirdLife Switzerland (Switzerland)

Werner Müller (Executive Director)

National Ecological Centre of Ukraine

Yury Urbansky (executive director)

Friends of the Earth US

Marcie Keever (Oceans & Vessels Program Director)

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Tine Sundtoft, Minister of Climate and Environment

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The European Anglers Alliance (EAA) is a pan-European NGO for recreational angling, which defends European recreational anglers' interests at the European level and beyond. There are about 3 mill. affiliated members to EAA's 18 member organizations and affiliates (2014) from 17 European nations.

EAA are writing to you to urge you not to allow dumping of mining waste in the Norwegian fjords.

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Sincerely



p.p.
Fred Bloot
President EAA