

JASON SMITH
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

1118 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404—PHONE
(202) 226-0326—FAX

**COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

<http://www.jasonsmith.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508

October 2, 2015

CAPE GIRARDEAU OFFICE
2502 TANNER DRIVE, SUITE 205
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703
(573) 335-0101—PHONE

FARMINGTON OFFICE
22 E. COLUMBIA STREET
FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9755—PHONE

POPLAR BLUFF OFFICE
2911 N. WESTWOOD BLVD., SUITE C
POPLAR BLUFF, MO 63901

ROLLA OFFICE
830A S. BISHOP
ROLLA, MO 65401
(573) 364-2455—PHONE

WEST PLAINS OFFICE
35 COURT SQUARE, SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515—PHONE

Ms. Sara Parker Pauley,
Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Re: Natural Resource Restoration Projects in the Southeast Missouri Lead Mining District

Dear Ms. Pauley:

It has come to my attention the Missouri Department of Natural Resources plans to purchase 2,463 acres in Oregon County, and the only public announcement regarding this project was made on September 2 in Reynolds County, miles away from the property in question. I also was informed that affected county and state officials were not notified of this public meeting.

As a result of the lack of contact with individuals affected by this proposed project, I strongly urge you to extend the comment period for the Natural Resource Restoration Projects in the Southeast Missouri Lead Mining District to November 6, 2015.

In addition, I understand money to purchase this property will come from a Southeast Missouri Lead Mining District lawsuit filed against lead smelter ASARCO. Oregon County was not a plaintiff in the lead litigation cases and the use of the money there does not benefit the counties that sued over their damaged resource areas – Iron, Madison and St. Francois Counties.

As you are aware, Oregon County is located within an impoverished section of Missouri's Eighth Congressional District. Removing an additional 2,463 acres will reduce school and county tax revenue in an area that needs it most. This will negatively impact our school districts which already carry the burden of educating students with reduced dollars because a significant portion of property is owned by state and federal governments.

Not only should the comment period be extended, but a public meeting should be hosted in Alton, Missouri, the Oregon County seat. All local and county officials in all counties affected, as well as state officials impacted by your decision should be promptly notified.

Please contact my West Plains District Director Heather Peugh at 417-255-1515 or by email at heather.peugh@mail.house.gov with information related to the aforementioned meeting. I look forward to your full consideration and prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
Member of Congress