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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1201

July 21, 2010

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BIOTECHNOLOGY,
SPECIALTY CROPS, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

Mr. David Hensley
Deputy Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to the Governor
Idaho Office of the Governor
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, ID 83720-0001

Dear David:

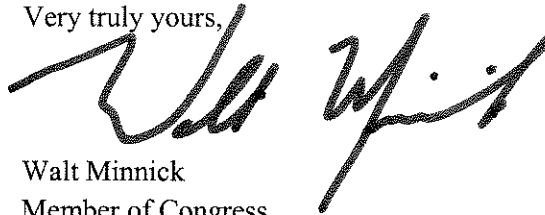
Idahoans who live near U.S. Highway 12 have become deeply concerned about the potential impacts of proposed shipments of oil mining equipment by Imperial Mining. These residents of a remote and wild part of the country rely on this highway for vital services as well as access to their businesses.

As this new overland shipping route is developed, reasonable questions have arisen that demand an answer: What will be the duration of highway closures? What affect will closures have on the local economy? What alternative routes are available for timely response to public hazards and medical emergencies? What is the potential for long-term closures due to traffic accidents involving the oversized mining equipment? What will a new, heavily used shipping route mean in terms of long-term changes in the use and traffic patterns along a Wild and Scenic River? What are the estimates of damage to highway infrastructure? Does the cost of maintaining this new shipping route outweigh the potential economic benefits to the region and to the state?

Idahoans in North Central Idaho deserve answers to these questions before the establishment of a route that proponents have claimed may lead to 20 years of continuous shipment of over-sized mining materials through the area.

I request you defer any decision to ship the equipment until the proposed route has been fully vetted with the public. This should include at least one widely advertised public hearing. I also request you delay any decision to authorize any shipments to proceed until Idaho's Congressional delegation has had the time to analyze and comment on the information and testimony is submitted at whatever public hearings are held.

Very truly yours,



Walt Minnick
Member of Congress

CC: Idaho Transportation Board Members

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