



March 12, 2019

Kåre R. Aas
Ambassador
Royal Norwegian Embassy in the United States
emb.washington@mfa.no

Dear Ambassador Aas,

The below conservation and human rights organizations, signatories to the [Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign declaration](#), write today to express profound concern over the February 14th decision of the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries to grant the final permit to Nussir ASA to operate a copper mine that will dump 30 million tonnes of mine waste into the Repparfjord, a designated National Salmon Fjord and traditional Sea Sámi fishing fjord.

The permit was granted without the consent of the Sámi Indigenous people who have steadfastly opposed the project for years, given the impacts it would have on traditional reindeer herding and sea-fishing. Repparfjord was the site of mine waste dumping in the 1970s and as a consequence, cod spawning grounds were destroyed and the salmon population dropped dangerously low. Nussir plans to dump an estimated 20 times more waste into the fjord.

Norway cannot be an international environmental leader while permitting projects that pollute a protected fjord with toxic mine waste. Norway cannot promote ocean sustainability while destroying the marine ecosystems that are the foundation for sustainable, local development. Norway cannot seek to promote human rights abroad while violating Indigenous rights at home.

We strongly urge the Norwegian government to reconsider this decision and deny Nussir ASA permission to mine. We draw your attention to the attached appeals filed by the Sámi Parliament and Friends of the Earth Norway, Nature and Youth, and Vest-Finnmark jeger- og Fiskerforening.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact Ellen Moore, Earthworks International Mining Program Coordinator at emoore@earthworks.org or by phone at 202-887-1872 x128.

Earthworks, USA
Bismark Ramu Group, Papua New Guinea
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), USA
MiningWatch Canada
Action for Ecology and People's Emancipation (AEER), Indonesia
SumOfUs
Oceana Chile
Niparajá, Mexico
Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland
Pacific Environment, USA

Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
Mineral Policy Institute, Australia
Seas at Risk, Belgium

CC:

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