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January 26, 2016

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement  
Western Region Office  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver CO 80202-3050

To Whom It May Concern:

With the beginning of the public comment period on the Trapper Mine Draft Environmental Assessment, the Craig City Council asks that you make clear that OSMRE's preferred alternative is to support Trapper's existing Mine Plan and to complete the Environmental Assessment before the April 30, 2016 deadline. We appreciate OSMRE's previous effort regarding Colowyo Mine. The negotiated agreement represents an opportunity to resolve this litigation without creating further uncertainty for Trapper Mine.

Trapper Mine has been operating since 1977 and currently provides about half the coal for its only customer Tri-State G&T's Craig Station. Trapper has more than 180 employees with deep roots in the Craig community and northwest Colorado. Trapper Mining contributes significantly to our local community. In 2014, Trapper's contribution included more than \$22 million in wages and benefits for its employees, more than \$10 million in local, state and federal taxes and royalties, and nearly \$30 million in products and services, most of which is spent locally.

For more than three decades Trapper has provided affordable energy across much of the western United States, good paying jobs to hundreds of families and critical economic benefits to our northwestern Colorado Community. Each day, hundreds of thousands of families, businesses, schools and farms rely on the clean, low-cost energy created by Trapper Mining's low-sulphur coal.

Trapper and our community are proud of the mine's commitment to Colorado's natural environment. Trapper's nationally recognized stewardship and reclamation efforts have improved the natural landscape and enabled wildlife – including elk, mule deer, bobcats, sharp-tailed grouse and waterfowl – to thrive. Trapper Mining's leadership and stewardship recognitions include several awards from the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement.

We are confident that your office understands the importance of completing the Environmental Assessment in a timely manner and commend your efforts thus far. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter of vital importance to us and our community.

Respectfully,  
Craig City Council

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Mayor Raymond Beck

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Mayor Pro Tem Kent Nielson

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Councilman Joe Bird

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Councilman Tony Bohrer

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Councilman Derek Duran

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Councilman Jarrod Ogden

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Councilman John Ponikvar