

January 14, 2009

15531 Route 4, Johnstown, NS  
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Mr. Gordon Dickie, Past President  
Mining Association of Nova Scotia  
Shaw Resources, P.O. Box 60  
Shubenacadie, NS B0N 2H0

Dear Mr. Dickie:

This response to your letter of January 9, 2009 is on behalf of the Board of Directors of the B N C OSpecifically, we address the concern you expressed on behalf of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia about the nomination submission we are preparing for UNESCO man and the Biosphere Program.

The draft nomination document clearly identifies the value of mining around the Bras , the quality of mining practices and regulation, and portrays the industry in a positive light. We are aware of the fundamental economic value of our mineral resources, and know that the role of mining is as honestly and accurately reported in the document as current data permit. The document is prepared by volunteer contributors, professionals and lay persons, WP UE staff.

Biosphere Reserve status creates no new protected areas, confers no new authority and involves no new bureaucracy or regulation of resource use, or economic development. That is the role of all levels of government. Your that in other areas similarly is not supported by fact or experience in Canada or elsewhere (approximately 500 sites worldwide). Some Canadian examples illustrate. Dr. Robert Meyer, Chair of Southwest Nova BR Association reported that although the Digby Neck controversy of last summer affected an area within that BR, his Association took no part in it. His comment was that uch activity would be against the values of a biosphere reserve; C BR includes gas and oil exploration; the Long Point BR in Ontario has gas exploration both on and off-shore Lake Erie; and, exploration rights held by the mining industry in the new Manicouagan-Uapishka BR in Quebec remain in place.

Your quote from our draft

0 is drawn from a narrow context and reports Aboriginal N 0 a statement of their viewpoint, not of a policy of the proposed Biosphere Reserve. We are collaborating with all the organizations, agencies and individuals that make up N community, to enhance local, national and global appreciation of our remarkable ecosystem, including its natural, cultural and socio-economic attributes. This will have the effect of fostering economic development through various resource and service sectors. This in turn will help to make it an even more attractive place to live, work, visit

and invest; a place where people know the significance of a sound economic base and the urgency of implementing sustainable development practices.

You express belief that prior

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0 We support the idea of an economic study that better documents the current and potential value of ecosystem goods and services provided to the people of Cap 0 research and educational exercise that occurs after designation is received, guided by the three BR functions: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development, and capacity building. After four years of intense, community-based collaborative development, we have ample evidence and broad-based support for the designation.

The UNESCO designation would present th N to the world as a special place that demonstrates how people can live in harmony with nature and how communities can be sustainable into the future. It comes with no measurable or observable prescriptions or restrictions on human activities (including mining) beyond those that already exist. It imposes no new level of administration or bureaucracy. Nothing in the draft nomination document impugns or denigrates the mining industry or its regulation.

We are disappointed in your attempt to undermine (by c.c. of your letter) the carefully considered support of our municipal partners in this, your first contact with the Association. We are confident they have taken the time to understand the process and outcomes and we expect to retain their support.

Although we have mining representation on our Board, we invite you to help us strengthen the attention accorded to mining in the nomination document, from the perspective of your Association. You and others from your Association are therefore welcome to attend our next Board meeting on February 5 in Baddeck. It is an open opportunity to explore y N Reserve.

Sincerely yours,

Teresa MacNeil, Chair

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Cc: Mining Association of Nova Scotia, President Peter Oram  
Duart MacAuley, Warden, Municipality of the County of Inverness  
John H. Boudreau, Warden, Municipality of the County of Richmond  
John W. Morgan, Mayor, Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
W.J. MacLean, Mayor, Town of Port Hawkesbury  
Blaine Gillis, CEO, Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency  
Eileen Lannon Oldford, CEO, CB CEDA  
Scott Swinden, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources