

Sunny Valley Residents Paid For Geology Experts

Letter To The Editor

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<http://www.thedailycourier.com/articles/2014/05/18/letters/news09.txt>

The Grants Pass Daily Courier

I would like to address an error in the May 13 article about the planning commission hearing for a proposed aggregate mine in Sunny Valley ("Aggregate Mine Clears Planning Hurdle," May 13). The reporter could not have known and cannot be faulted, so I would like to set the record straight.

The Oregon certified geologist and hydro-geologist for the opposition were provided through Sunny Valley residents, not by Rogue Advocates and not by Rogue Riverkeeper. In fact, one of the geologists is an experienced Sunny Valley resident with experience working previously on the proposed project's site. The other was hired through donations from Sunny Valley residents. I know because I made a donation. The spokesperson for Rogue Advocates was asked by residents to present the material generated through the expertise of the geologists provided by the Sunny Valley residents.

Why is this important? Because recognizing the reality of action and impact of local citizenry — in Sunny Valley and other locations across the country in similar battles — empowers and encourages citizens to stand up, speak out for what they know is right and for the common good, instead of caving in to greed propaganda. To erase that "power of the people" erodes one of the fundamental values and responsibilities upon which our country was founded.

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Sunny Valley