[Your Name]

[Your Address]

Parks, AZ [Your Zip Code]

[Date]

[Recipient Name]

[Title (e.g., Senator or Representative)]

[Office Address]

City, State, Zip

Dear [Title and Recipient's Last Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a concerned resident of Parks, Arizona. I am writing to bring your attention to a pressing issue that threatens the environmental, cultural, and aesthetic value of our beloved community. The Drake Cement Company is planning to expand its pozzolan mining operations within the Kaibab National Forest, specifically in the Spring Valley area near Government Hill, and other sites close to our community.

While I understand the economic considerations associated with mining operations, I believe it is imperative to consider the long-term implications of such a project on our environment, watershed, and the overall well-being of the Parks residents. The potential devastation of significant stands of aspen trees, the disturbance of peaceful neighborhoods, and the alteration of historically serene landscapes have deeply troubled many in our community.

Beyond the immediate environmental concerns, the infrastructure required for these operations, notably the increased traffic on Spring Valley Road, poses significant risks. This road is not just a means of transportation for us; it is where our children play, where we walk, jog, and bike, and where our sense of community thrives. The anticipated influx of heavy vehicles and machinery will significantly disrupt this harmony and endanger the residents.

Furthermore, the U.S. Forest Service is monitoring the effects of the Oystershell scale, an invasive insect affecting our quaking aspen and other softwood trees. The proposed mining activities could exacerbate this problem, causing further harm to our precious ecosystems. In addition, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has the Mexican Spotted Owl Listed Status as “threatened” status and their habitat sits directly in the proposed mining site of 1400 acres, see link below. The mining operation will negatively impact the Owl’s current habitat, put them in grave danger, and likely lead to them being listed as “endangered” status by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

<https://gis-fws.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fws::critical-habitat-polygon-features-final/explore?location=35.298394%2C-111.964829%2C12.11>

I humbly request your assistance in opposing this mining expansion. Our community is not opposed to economic development, but we believe there must be a balance between industry and preservation. Parks, AZ, is a gem, treasured not only by its inhabitants but also by visitors who seek its natural beauty and tranquility. We must protect this legacy for future generations.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could use your influence and position to cease this mining expansion from occurring by Drake Cement Company. There are no alternative solutions to this mining operation within the Spring Valley area or the surrounding area.

Your support in this matter would not only safeguard the natural beauty and ecological integrity of Parks but also reaffirm the democratic principle that the voices of constituents matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I sincerely hope you will consider our plea. I am more than willing to discuss this further and provide any additional information you might require.

Warm regards,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Email Address]

[Your Phone Number]