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August 3, 2011

Friends,

On July 25, after 16 days, I ended my open ended water-only fast on orders of my doctor. He felt that to continue would risk causing long term damage to my health.

While I was disappointed, I feel that the fast did achieve, albeit in a more limited way than I would have liked, one of my aims. I believe it made many people more aware of the dangers to our water and health from sulfide mining and hopefully moved them to take action.

And as a personal matter, the fast created some space between myself and the state government whose actions had led to the fast in the first place. I felt that I was taking responsibility for protecting our precious water resources in the willful absence of responsibility by our Governor who had an opportunity to halt the development of the mine and call for an environmental impact study. His choice for Rio Tinto instead of our water and our children's health had clear moral implications. It was important that someone, under the circumstances, oppose his decision with another more appropriate one. I'm happy I could do that, if even very briefly.

I'm concerned with what the future holds for the Upper Peninsula. More mines are on their way. Kennecott and other mining companies have bought up mineral rights throughout the region and have been doing extensive exploratory drilling. With continuing decline in the UP economy expected, a great push will be made for new mines since they will bring new jobs. How to counter this push is the great challenge before us. But not only do we need to push back. We need to offer an ecologically and economically sound alternative to mining for the creation of the jobs so desperately needed here.

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers. They sustained me. I look forward to continuing to work with you in an unrelenting effort to protect our precious water from the scourge of sulfide mining.

With Blessings and Love,

Scott Rutherford

*I ask as a personal favor that we do not let this sacrifice, the sacrifice that Tim DeChristopher's willing to make, the fact that he has never given up on his convictions, and the fact that he has never backed down—that we do not let that sacrifice go unnoticed, that we do not let that sacrifice go without a response. I ask every one of you, what is your commitment? This is your call to action, because this is our future.*

Henia Belalia  
Peaceful Uprising Spokesperson.  
Statement following Tim  
DeChristopher's sentencing to two  
years in prison.