**ADDENDUM**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING SANDPOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**SANDPOINT CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**OCTOBER 17, 2018**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Robert Edmondson,** business owner in Sandpoint, Idaho and resides in Priest River, Idaho, said the majority of the residents who live in this area appreciate clean air, clean water and land to grow crops. As a father of seven children, he strongly the proposed silicon smelter. The proposed smelter will have zero benefit for the citizens of Idaho as it’s a Canadian company constructing a smelter in Washington that will impact the City of Sandpoint. The proposed smelter will impact property values, our land, our water, our air and our children. Cancer rates and medical bills will increase as well as financially impact our area. Those who have resided near a smelter have provided negative comments about this type of industry. It’s common for smelter companies to pay the fine when in violation rather than fixing the issue.

**Greg Simpson,** resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, said he is a product of living directly below the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company (COMINCO) smelter in Trail, B.C. for 25 years. He is currently being treated with stage 3 colon cancer. He ate the fish from the water and ate the deer off the land. He saw the destruction from the smelter where he lived eight miles below the smelter along the Columbia River. COMINCO had effluent within water that was contaminated and is very expensive to remove legitimately. It was less expensive for their company to pay the fine then to fix the problem. They got away with the contaminations that were put into the river and continue to get away with it. He feels it’s an extreme possibility that his cancer was caused by eating the fish from the Columbia River, downstream from the Trail, B.C. smelter. Some residents had noticeable lead in their soil. It was noticeable closer to the smelter that the foliage along the river bed had disappeared.

**Constance Albrecht,** resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, said she has been involved in geology and environmental impacts over several years. The smelter is very bad news because they will be burning coal, wood and charcoal which will create various air pollutants. She supports the proposed resolution and proposed scoping comments. She wishes that other local governments would also be concerned in protecting our water quality. She urged City officials to encourage other governmental agencies to join in their efforts. The Governor of the State of Washington has been involved in the process and has spent $300,000 in State money which is minimal from their budget. Unfortunately, our area will be significantly impacted from a Canadian company with the State of Washington receiving the tax dollars. There’s no guarantee that there will be a lot of jobs available at the proposed smelter. There are other smelters constructed utilizing the same model with one of the smelters in Ireland closed due to environmental reasons. Another smelter in Ireland has had several problems that was closed down and left pollutants. She urged the City to send the proposed resolution and scoping comments to the Department of Environmental Quality. She suggested to add public health impacts under environmental studies. She also suggested adding the consideration of looking at an alternative location for the smelter. Within the original agreement with the State of Washington, the funds received was to put the proposed smelter on an aluminum smelter site but instead the proposed site will be within a rural residential area. She urged City Council to include within the EIS a different location for the proposed smelter. They should be required to locate based on what was originally agreed upon. She also suggested to add that an economic analysis be conducted and included and not limited to loss of tourism and impacts to housing, schools, property taxes and revenues. The question is now that Sandpoint complies as a nonattainment area, how will the proposed smelter put Sandpoint back into non-compliance. Because the smelter stacks won’t be high, the pollutants will not go high into the air but rather spread out locally. Will we lose Federal funding if Sandpoint no longer has nonattainment status? Will this impact those who will rely on wood heat? The company should pay for the analysis. She raised concern with the kinds of particulates and the heavy metals that will be emitted from the smelter and additional costs to treat our surface water.

**Preshella Marshall,** resident of Clark Fork, Idaho, said her and her family moved here from Portland, Oregon and originally didn’t want to move in this area due to the proposed smelter. The reason they changed their mind is because of our community and the Sandpoint Mayor’s view on the proposed smelter. She fears that only one organization can stop the smelter and stressed having a smelter near our community is in appropriate particularly with our air inversion and terrain. It’s important that our community expose this company on what the impacts will be.

**Elizabeth Iha,** resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, said she supported the proposed resolution and comments. She requested that City Council openly oppose the smelter within the resolution. The smelter will be detrimental to our environment and our health. She encouraged City Council to urge the Bonner County Commissioners to also openly oppose the proposed smelter and to work with Pend Oreille County, Washington to create a much better solution for job creation. She said of the 200 people that attended the scoping hearing in Newport, Washington, 95% spoke in opposition of the proposed smelter. She provided a “rap” musical rendition of comments she had written.

**Steve Lockwood,** resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, expressed support of the scoping comments. He pointed out we need data gathered from downwind sites throughout Bonner County as we currently don’t have adequate base line data. He raised concern with water, air and land pollution, visibility and snow pack. He said he’s been involved in creating jobs in our community for the past ten years as his membership on the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Board. As a candidate for Bonner County Commissioner, he hears daily from Bonner County residents their concern about their health that may be impacted by degraded air quality and our recreation and natural beauty will be harmed. He wished Bonner County was more involved. 40,000 Bonner County residents need to have a voice.

**Alan Andrews,** Bonner County resident, said he has lived in this area for approximately 40 years. He thanked the Mayor and other City elected officials for attending the scoping hearings. He moved here 40 years ago because he’s had asthma problems that dissipated since he moved here. He is appalled that there will be 750 tons per year of air pollution. This comes to 1.5 billion pounds per year in the air which does not take into consideration the ground water and silicates that will be waste products. Coal ash is a main concern and silicates in the air that causes minor diseases in lungs. According to a study, there will be a 200-mile wind plume that will reach all the way in the State of Montana. This will impact the entire Inland Northwest. If the proposed smelter is constructed, this will impact the dollars used to fund our new roads and water treatment. He stressed if it is constructed, he will move. The smelter will change everything we deal with in our lives negatively permanently.

**Tina Scherr**, resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, spoke emotionally in opposition of the proposed smelter. She supports the work City officials put into the proposed resolution and scoping comments and the sacrifices they are making for our community. She urged City Council to openly opposed the proposed smelter. If the proposed smelter is constructed, it will be unfortunate that those who reside here because of quality of life, will move away.

**Mayor Rognstad read the following comments into the record:**

**Trevor Scherr**, resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, is very worried for his children’s future with the proposed smelter as there will be air pollution, acid raid and our waterways will be destroyed.

**Shelby Huyck**, Bonner County resident, urges City Council to consider the health and welfare of all citizens of Bonner County and Boundary County. She opposes the proposed smelter.

**Lester Scherr,** Bonner County resident, opposes the proposed smelter.