

August 26, 2020

An Open Letter to:

John-Sebastien Jacques  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rio Tinto and Utah Kennecott Copper Corporation

Dear Mr. Jacques:

As residents, and civic groups, of the Salt Lake Valley concerned for the health of all residents, we request that Rio Tinto Kennecott place its extensive land holdings in Salt Lake City's Northwest Quadrant into a permanent conservation easement. Preserving this land would enhance the Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve and demonstrate a commitment to public health and environmental sustainability.

You currently plan to allow development of this land as part of an inland port. By protecting this area from development, Rio Tinto Kennecott would safeguard our valley from 70,000 additional daily commercial truck trips and 150,000 additional daily private car trips which our modeling suggests would be generated at full build out. Damage to water quality and important wildlife habitat is almost inevitable.

Communities near inland ports elsewhere in the United States have suffered serious public health problems. Multiple studies of communities with inland ports elsewhere in the United States cite increases in numerous adverse health outcomes, including heart and lung disease, neurologic disorders, and increased cancer risk. As is the case with much urban environmental degradation, public health impacts fall disproportionately on low-income families and persons of color.

Rio Tinto Kennecott's long history of harming Utah's environment has required numerous legal actions to end polluting activities.

For decades, your operations in western Salt Lake County generated toxic selenium and arsenic groundwater plumes. An acid plume at the southern end of these operations rendered the water undrinkable for thousands of residents of South Jordan. (Utah Department of Environmental Quality, 2020). In 2008, the Salt Lake Tribune discovered that Rio Tinto Kennecott executives covered up potentially disastrous structural defects in tailings impoundments (Salt Lake Tribune, March 24, 2008), some of which may persist to this day. That issue re-emerged this spring when the Salt Lake Valley, an active earthquake zone, had a 5.7 magnitude quake, the largest in many years.

Rio Tinto Kennecott has achieved great wealth mining metals at the main Kennecott Utah Copper operation and the Bingham Canyon Mine. These holdings, along with your 30 percent ownership of the Escondida Copper Mine in Chile, place you as one of the largest producers of copper in the world. Your company earned \$10.4 billion last year, according to the Rio Tinto Kennecott website. You have a sound financial base.

However, your wealth has come at a great cost to our community. Based on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Release Inventory of 2017, the Bingham Canyon Mine is the second-largest source of toxic releases in the United States. This inventory tracks 650 toxic compounds from various industries that leak into the environment. Forbes Magazine uses this inventory to rank U.S. cities and states. The Bingham Canyon copper mine is by far the largest single source of toxic releases in Utah (over 90 percent) as tracked by the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory and reported in the Salt Lake Tribune (November 13, 2017). Salt Lake County was second in the nation for the high volume of toxins released into the environment as cited in Forbes Magazine November 7, 2017 issue.

From the thousands of pounds of lead emitted from Rio Tinto Kennecott's smelter stack every year to the tons of fugitive dust, heavy metals, particulate matter, toxic chemicals, and nitrogen oxides emitted from your diesel equipment and other mining operations, Rio Tinto Kennecott has harmed the health of our densely populated community in many ways. These include exposing our children to neurotoxins and virtually all the diseases known to come from smoking cigarettes. Extrapolating from worldwide research, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment estimates that over the course of 100 plus years, Rio Tinto Kennecott's pollution of the Salt Lake Valley has led to the premature deaths of tens of thousands of people.

Rio Tinto Kennecott continues to avoid taking responsibility for the environmental damage it has caused and may cause in future. Your company does not have a closure plan properly reviewed by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as required by law. Such a plan would detail the environmental harms your company has caused and ensure that considerable resources are guaranteed to remediate them when you cease operations in Utah. Yet, closure is expected within the next 20 years.

Rio Tinto Kennecott once planned to leave this land between I-80 and the Great Salt Lake in its natural state as partial mitigation of environmental damage. Why is that now not the case?

Protecting this land would not only protect the health of the people who labored for you, but also the habitat for many species, including *millions* of birds that depend on the lake and surrounding wetlands, one of the most important ecological systems in the western world.

Also, we are concerned that the land you intend to develop contains ancient villages and burial sites of Indigenous people, particularly from the Shoshone, Ute and Goshute tribes. Your development plans could destroy these sacred places just as your activities destroyed a 46,000-year-old similar site in Australia.

Based on a recent poll, nearly two-thirds of the residents of the Salt Lake Valley opposed the development of this inland port. Opposition is destined to grow.

The conservation easement we seek would be an even greater contribution to the future of our region than your much-admired state-of-the-art soccer stadium and world-class natural history museum. Land preservation can be part of a mitigation plan. So far, the legacy of Kennecott and Rio Tinto Kennecott is rooted in pollution and disregard for public health.

Rio Tinto Kennecott has profited from Utah's land for over a century. Now we ask you to preserve the land and to take a stand against more air and water pollution, and habitat destruction. That would be the greatest legacy you could give to future generations of Utahns-- and birds of the world.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake  
Utah Physicians for a Health Environment  
Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Save Our Canyons  
Healthy Environment Alliance (HEAL) of Utah  
Westpointe Community Council  
Westside Coalition  
First Unitarian Church, Salt Lake City  
South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society  
Environmental Caucus  
Elders Rising  
Utah Tar Sands Resistance  
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance  
Salt Lake Buddhist Fellowship  
Citizens Education Project  
Sunnyside East Neighborhood Association  
Salt Lake Indivisible  
Communities for Clean Air  
Environmental Ministry, First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City  
Salt Lake Education Association  
Stop the Polluting Port Coalition  
Move to Amend  
Peaceful Uprising  
Utah Audubon Council  
Utah Citizens Advocating Renewable Energy (UCARE)  
Utah Moms for Clean Air  
SLC Air Protectors  
Utah Rivers Council  
Utahns for Better Transportation

cc: Rio Tinto, Board of Directors  
John Birkinshaw, Rio Tinto Kennecott Utah Copper, Director, Land Planning and  
Development  
Salt Lake City Council  
Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall

**Community members signing:**

Patricia	Clay
Kathy	Adams
Nancy	Adams
Leslie	Adler
Mason	Aeschbacher
Jennifer	Agape
Meg	Ahern
Ashleigh	Albrechtsen
Kathryn	Albury
Carla	Anderson
Lyndsey	Anderson
Claudia	Anderson
Ronald	Anderson
Maryanne	Andrus
David	Anson
John	Ause
Christine	Baczek
Yvonne	Bailon
Bryan	Baisley
Joel	Ban
Christine	Barker
Carolee	Baron
Mark	Barone
France	Barral
Elise	Barrett
Bonnie	Baty
Molly	Baxter
Steve	Beatty
Leela	Beaudry
Brigitte	Bebey
Mark	Bennett

Nina	Bennett
Margaret	Benson
Greg	Benson
Marie	Benson
Markus	Birch
DAVID	BLACK
Carol	Blackwell
Alyssa	Blake
Kristin	Blanchard
Priscilla	Blanchot
Wendy	Blankenship
Bonnie	Bowman
Jean	Boyack
Beverly	Boyce
Cindy	Boyer
Laurie	Bragg
Anna	Brandes
Chris	Braymen
ELIZABETH	BRAYMEN
Kirsten	Brinkerhoff
Winston	Brinkerhoff
Rachel	Broadbent
John Paul	Brophy
Katia	Brower
Jackie	Brown
Vickie	Brunstetter
Sarah	Buck
Cynthia	Buckingham
Chantel	Buhler
Rebecca	Burrage
Jan Ellen	Burton
Lorena	Bush
Madison	Butters
David	Cacanindin

Marianne	Campbell
Aaron	Cance
Jake	Carlen
Jayden	Carlsen
Danielle	Carpenter
Keith	Carrick
Kristen	Carter
Charlie	Casias
Casey	Chalmers
Maggie	Chaney
Melodie	Charle
Anne	Charles
Jean	Cheney
Brooke	Cheney
Laurie	Christie
Alyssa	Claerhout
Bill	Clark
Brett	Clark
John	Clay
Kathi	Cohen
Gina	Coleman
Kaelene	Colobella
Lynda	Cooley
Megan	Cope
Cathryn	
Raphael	Cordray
Georgie	Corkery
Joan	Cornelius
Susan	Corth
Gary	Crandall
Jacob	Crane
Jayne	Crosby
Carlos	Cueva
Frank	Cumberland

Stacia	Cummings
Cassie	Curtis
Robin	Dale
Logan	Dance
Terry	Datz
Fred	Datz
Katherine	Dayton-Kistler
Alberto	de la Torre
Joan	Degiorgio
Monica	Dobbins
Heather	Dorrell
Heather	Dove
Andrew	Downing
Jill	Drown
David	Druker
Kair	Duensing
Dan	Dugan
Candace	Duncan
Elena	Dunckel
Karla	DuVall
Laura	Dyer
Barbara	Eastman
Julie	Edison
Skip	Edwards
Randall	Eggert
Michael	Eldredge
Brian	Ellison
Jamie	Ellison
Deborah	Elton
Steve	Erickson
Shay	Ernst
Leslie	Evans
Barbara	Evert
Melody	Eyres

Amber	Eyring
Ludovica	Farese
Amanda	Farnsworth
Sylvia	Ferguson
Jessica	Ferree
Erin	Finney
Shannon	Fisher
mame	fitzpatrick
Susan F.	Fleming
Serena	Flocco
Sonia	Flores
Jessica	Foard
Marie	Fontaine
Laurie	Forbush
JESSICA	FRENCH
Susan	Furca
Dennise	Gackstetter
Paul	Gandy
Jan	Gandy
Kate	Gardiner
Dolly	Garlo
Talon	Garner
Dianne	Gaschler
Hadley	Gasser
Valerie	Gates
Valerie	Gates
Caroline	Gaudy
Harriett	Gesteland
Christine	Gibbs
Lynne	Gilbert-Norton
Diana	Girtain
Diana	Girtain
Thomas	Goldsmith
Dayne	Goodwin



Amanda	Grapes
Sylvia	Gray
Sylvia	Gray
Sylvia	Gray
Sylvia	Gray
Lauri	Gray
Catherine	Gray
Lynda	Grayzel
Eric	Green
Colin	Green
Joan	Gregory
Joan	Gregory
Joan	Gregory
Rick	Gregory
Brian	Grella
Joseph	Griffiths
Maurena	Grossman
Mary Ann	Gubler
keith	guernsey
Kathryn	Gustafson
Paul	Gustafson
William	Hagen
KELSEY	HALE
Walter	Haman
Merrideth	Hammill
John	Hammill
Andrew	Hancock
Kelly	Hanks
Sally	Hannon
Janice	Hansen
Lorin	Hansen
Mary	Hardy
Peter	Haug
Steve	Haycock

Mia	Hayes
Heidi	Henderson
Colette	Herrick
Barbara	Hevner-Willey
Joslin	Heyward
Gina	Hiatt
Stacy	Higbee
Monica	Hilding
Ian	Hoag
Amy	Hochberg
Ruth	hoffmann
Lynn	Holbrook
Paul	Holbrook
Glen	Hollander
Salli	Hollenbach
Richard	Holman
Pamela	Holman
Bonnie	Hooper
Barbara	Houghton
Linda	Houtz
Nancy	Howard
Megan	Humphreys
Tana	Hunter
Lindsay	Huss
Craig	Hylton
Alyssa	Hymas
Michael	Jackson
Melodie	Jacobsen
Susana	Jacobson
Susana	Jacobson
Vanessa	Jaramillo
Elaine	Jarvik
Jon	Jensen
Teri	Jewell

Robert	Johnson
Diana	Johnson
Sue	Johnson
Diane	Johnson
Douglas	Johnstone
Amie	Jones
Susan	Jones
Luli	Josephson
Page	Juliano
Sharon	Jung
Julia	Kammel
Sam	Karthan
Charles	Keller
Patrick	Kelly
Melissa	Kelsey
Vee	Kelsey-Mckee
Sara	Kenney
SANDRA	KERMAN
Linda	Keyes
Talia	Keys
Nick	Kiahtipes
Madison	Kieffer
Dianne Kira	Kilmer
James	King
Sylvia	King
Karin	Kirchhoff
Karin	Kirchhoff
Karin	Kirchhoff
Wynde	Klauer
Kathryn	Kolquist
Amy	Kopischke
Punita	Koustubhan
Kent C.	Kravitz
Erika	Kreutziger

Thomas	Krug
Jeanine	Kuhn-Coker
Baley	Kynaston
Hilary	Lambert
Valerie	Lambert
Roger	Lamoni
JANE	LARSON
Margaret	Laun
Gerald	Lazar
Margi	Lebold
Fred	Ledward
Virginia	Lee
Anne	Lee
James	Lee
Aubrey	Lee
Christopher	
Kakuyo	Leibow
Phyllis	Leppert
Nick	Levin
Verlene	Lewis
Marta	Licul
LaVone	Liddle
Tonya	Linky
Sandra	Livingston Turner
Ben	Lobrot
Tiana	Lofgreen
Whitney	Lomax
Nancy	Lombardo
Blake	London
Lianna	Lopez
Judy	Lord
Vaughn	Lovejoy
Mandy	Lyons
Robyn	MacDuff

Florian	Maderspacher
Gene	Mahalko
Gene	Mahalko
Susan	Makov
Liesa	Manuel
Terry	Marasco
Terri	Marshall
Jer	Mart
Abigail	Mason
Erin	Matson
Anna	Matthews
Hillary	Mauerman
Nathan	Maus
Diana	Maxell
Susan	Maxfield
Matt	McCormick
CAROL	MCCRACKEN
Diane	McDermaid
Ronni	McDonough
Taylor	McFarland
NANCY	McHugh
Lani	McKinnon
Pamela	McKinnon
Anna	McNamer
E.L.	McPhie
Tyler	McQueen
Kirk	Mendenhall
Lisa	Meranda
Jill	Merritt
John	Merritt
Gary	Mesker
Morgan	Millar
Christine	Miller
Olivia	Miller

Ira and Anne	MITCHELL
Jordan	Mitchell
Coni	Modrow
Malin	Moench
John	Molen
Angelique	Morrill
Misty	Morris
Shane	Moser
Stephen	Mossbarger
Spencer	Moyers
Chad	Mullins
Stefanie	Naden
MARGARET NAKAGIRI	
JoAnn	Natrop
Elizabeth	Nelson
Linda	Nelson
Lisa	Neuhof
Katie	Newburn
Michelle	Nguyen
Robert	Nibley
Nona	Nibley
Laurie	Niederee
Amanda	Nielsen
Richard	O'Brien
Danny	O'Malley
Edith	OBrien
Brittany	Olsen
Kathy	Olsen
Chelsey	Olsen
Jeannine	Olson
Kelly	Oram
Vicki	Overfelt
Mark	Overfelt
LAURIE	PACKARD

Sheryl	Padjen
Reina	Pahulu
Chelsey	Painter
Alan	Palumbos
Janice	Palumbos
Lauren	Pandolfi
Katie	Pappas
Whitney	Parkinson
Henry B.	Parry II
Sarah	Parson
Lisa	Paterson
Constance	Patterson
Ashley	Patterson
Jessie	Paul
MARY	PAUL
John	Pearson
Wayne	Peay
Candace	Peck
Alejandro	Perez
Dean	Petaja
Leslie	Peterson
Spencer	Peterson
Marc	Peterson
LeAnn	Peterson
Susan	Pett
Luke	Pfeil
Angelika	Pfutzner
Allan	Phelps
Robert	Phelps
Star	Phifer
Emily	Pierce
Phyllis	Pope
Allan	Post
Marv	Poulson

Angelo	Pulgiano
Isabel	Quilantan
Carl	Rabke
Lindsey	Raleigh
Jonna	Ramey
Idalia	Ramirez
Nancy	Rasmuson
JoAnn	Rasmussen
Shirley	Ray
Ashley	Raymond
Malarie	Reddoor
Martha	Redeker
Birgit	Reeves
Earth	Reiser
Robert	Reynolds III
Angela	Rhinehart
Sheila	Richard
Rebecca	Richard
Christine	Richards
Natalya	Richter
Suzanne	Riddle
Lisa	Rigtrup
Andrew	Rivera
Douglas	Roberts
MORIAH	ROBERTS
Robin	Roberts
Hal	Robins
Kathleen	Robins
JUSTIN	ROBINSON
Christopher	Rohr
Tena	Rohr
Jonathan	Rosales
Annie	Rowberry
Don	Rudy



Karen	Rymer
Theadora	Sakata
Antonino	Salcedo
Doug	Sam
Jennifer	Sanda
Amy	Sapulski
Riley	Sayers
Ann	Scarborough
Gwen	Schamel
David	Scheer
Sienna	Scheid
Kirsten	Schiel
Karri	Schlegel
Emmalene	Schneider
Kate	Schockmel
Deeda	Seed
Tessa	Shields
Tara	Shupe
Da'Nara	Shupe
Roland	Sicard
Wendy	Sicard
Naomi	Silverstone
Sean	Slack
Nicole	Smeeding
Randi	Smith
Yda	Smith
Tristan	Solies
Poonam	Soni
Jared	Soper
Jared	Soper
Kristy	Spencer
Lee	Stanhope
Suzanne	Stensaas
Karina	Stevens

VALARIE	STEWART
Jess	Stokes
Paul	Stolarz
Tim	Stoneman
Tony	Stowe
Becky	Streeper
Holly	Stuart
BRITTANIE	STUMPP
Christy	Swartz
Lennie	Swenson
Scott	Swickard
Kristina	Swickard
Jean	Tabin
Alex	Taft
Veronika	Tait
Sarah	Tamburelli
Lauri	Taylor
Jack	Taylor
Rebecca	Tew
Constance	Theodore
Mark	Thomas
Ryan	Thomas
Simeon	Thomas
Trischa	Thorne
Lydia	Trettis
Jake	Trimble
Jack	Tripp
Melody	Tripp
Brent	Tucker
Nancy	Tucker
Caitlyn	Valovick Moore
Pam	VanCura
Adrian	Vande Merwe
Abby	Vande Veegaete

Janice	Vander Molen
Erin	Vanderhoof
Jonny	Vasic
Molly	Ver Meer
Julie	Vesely
Angel	Vice
Karina	Waddoups
Nelson	Wadsworth
Jenna	Waite
Thomas	Walker
BRIAN	WALSH
Tracy	Walton
ML	Waters
Colton	Webb
STEPHANIE	WEEMS
Sharon	Wendt
Patricia	Wesson
Jodi	Wetzel
James	Wetzel
Robyn	White
Dustin	White
Jonah	White
Henry`	Whiteside
Rachelle	Whiting
Marci	Wicks
Lori	Wike
Sylvia	Wilcox
Kavita	Willesen
Scott	Williams
Janet	Williams
Bev	Wilson
Eric	Wilson
Andrea	Winbauer
Tyler	Winegar

Mel	Wise
Jay	Wiseman
Maria	Wiseman
Susan	Wolfe
Susan	Wolfe
Jenny	Wolff
Nevin	Woods
Ryan	Workman
John	Worlock
John	Worlock
Shannon	Woulfe
Susan	Wrathall
Lucas	Wright-Moore
Lora	Young
Ken	Yuan
Daniel	Zamecnik
Paul	Zembruski
Cathleen	Zick
Chaney	Zinn
Ashley	Zoubek