(date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Dear Members of Cambridge Township Planning Commission,

Re: Proposed Sand & Gravel Mine Cambridge Twp, south of US-12 between Allen, Meadow and Kelly Lake.

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the proposed mining project by SSP Leasing/Cambridge Lake LLC in Cambridge Twp, south of US-12 between Allen, Meadow and Kelly Lake. The Irish Hills is a peaceful rural community, surrounded by numerous lakes, wetlands, and forests with properties and businesses spread throughout the area. Irish Hills is a place where residents can escape the noise and the bustle of the cities and relax in the tranquility of their properties. This area features a unique combination of picturesque countryside, scenic rolling hills and crystal blue lakes for recreation and enjoyment.

A gravel and sand pit would be devastating and ruin the quality of life that we and our neighbors enjoy so much.  Please hear my concerns and take into careful consideration the enormous negative impact such an operation would have on the community and the environment in which we live. Residents and businesses have addressed concerns regarding health and public safety, including human health hazards, water, fowl and wildlife safety as well as surrounding wetlands, watersheds and water tables affecting wells and aquifers within the area.

I strongly urge you to postpone any decisions regarding approval of the conditional use permit. Due to the magnitude and scope of the work being proposed, I believe additional time is necessary to perform further studies; namely-environmental, hydrogeological, existing land uses, protection of property values, local health safety and traffic safety, studies to ensure there is proven demonstrated need for aggregate and then, that need/value be balanced against the potential for very serious consequences that may occur.

​ **Very serious consequences including-**

1. Noise from sunup to sundown- the revving of diesel engines from gravel trucks, bull dozers, crushers, sorters, and other equipment and the constant annoyance backup beeping. The noise and noxious smells will lead to loss of property enjoyment.
2. Traffic Safety- I have significant concerns about 82-ton gravel haulers coming in and out of the pit onto US-12 slowly, as traffic zips around the corners at 55 mph. The danger gravel truck traffic would create is deadly. We as residents of the area know all too well the dangers of dead man’s curve, the deaths and accidents, how difficult it is to pull a boat trailer out of Allens Lake public access as it is, let alone the limited sight distance in and out of the proposed gravel pit onto US-12, poses a threat to pedestrians, cars, school buses and those riding motorcycles.
3. Ground water disturbance- Mining operations, washing, dust control and digging has the high probability of disturbing an already fragile groundwater source. There is potential impact for water contamination and reduction of nearby lakes, streams as well as residential wells. The channels that connect Wolf, Allen, Meadow, Kelly and Killarney are already quite shallow. We rely on groundwater for our wells. What happens if our wells go dry or the water table drops in the lakes and the channels no longer allow access?
4. Impact on health-. toxic fumes and crystalline silica dust. Silica dust has proven links to diseases that lead to death including silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, renal failure, and kidney disease as well as causing auto-immune diseases.
5. Open pit gravel mines depress property values and damaged property values severely affect tax revenues!
6. Impact on local eco-systems-Potential damage to wetlands, wildlife and fishery habitats. Killarney Hwy is a Natural Beauty Road. The wetlands provide an amazing habitat for a large variety of migrating birds as well as yearlong resident species, numerous wildlife and fish.
7. Impact of existing land uses

Michigan’s gravel statue provides categories of ‘very serious consequences’ (VSC) into which all of these concerns can be grouped [MCL § 125.3205 (5) (a) through (f)]. Using broad labels, these include Existing Land Uses, Environmental Issues, Protection of Property Values, Traffic Safety, and Local Health, Safety, & Welfare.

The residents and businesses would like more time to gather information, create questions, and to review the proposed development detailed plans.

In closing, I would like to ask; what does this bring to Cambridge Township? How does this better our community? How does a gravel pit fit into the surrounding land use?

A gravel and sand pit would drastically affect our ability to enjoy our properties that we have invested so much money and time into, decrease our property values and destroy the quiet, peaceful community in which we live.  If a permit were granted, the negative impact that this pit would have on the environment and its inhabitants is irreversible.   It would compromise the health and safety of our community and ruin the character of this unique place forever.

I thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and hope you will take them into consideration when making your decision about the future of our community.

Sincerely,

[your name and address]