

We were heartbroken to hear about the proposed quarry 1/2 mile from our brother and sister-in-law's home. We spent a week with them in June and certainly can understand why they finally feel they have "come home." They were drawn to the solitude, peace, and natural beauty of Santa Margarita. Our stay with them made up half of our vacation because we were looking for that same experience.

It is impossible to imagine the devastating effect of the quarry on this pristine area. We are sure that we do not need to speak of what your area has to offer; you are already aware of all that. You have, no doubt, been inundated with references to *David and Goliath* and *Manifest Destiny*. But this is a real opportunity to stand up for the people in your community. These people did not come to this area because it is booming or cheap or sexy. They came (or they have remained) because it is home and speaks to them the only way home can. For many of them, there simply is no other place.

I could sit here and go on about how this ruins a unique vacation spot for us, but I cannot worry about that. This is their home, their everyday, their life. I can only hope that you recognize the human and natural resources you have *above the ground* and stop this process before it starts.

Sincerely,

Melissa and David Edwards
Springboro, Ohio