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**Hagerty, Karen H MVR**

**From:** O'Malley/Bergeron [komaab@zeus.ia.net]

**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2002 10:39 AM

**To:** Hagerty, Karen H

**Subject:** Proposed Muslim Youth Camp of America Near North Liberty

Dear Colonel Hagerty:

My name is Alan Bergeron and I own a property on Scales Bend Road approximately 0.6 miles west of the proposed Muslin Youth Camp of America (MYCA). My partner, Kathleen O'Malley and I have attended most of the local meetings involving the proposed camp, including the initial meeting on-site with representatives from MYCA. We have observed some fairly outlandish and exaggerated claims by the various parties represented including, MYCA, the US Corps of Engineers, neighbors, etc. regards racism, abuse of power, inappropriate use of Federal lands, sloppy and inaccurate planning, and misrepresented motives. Quite frankly, we find these claims to be very alarming, particularly with what our Country is currently going through. We would have hoped for more professional and less emotional behavior.

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My comments aside, the Environmental Assessment appears to be incomplete (e.g., no light pollution assessment, no consideration to fences, borders, barriers to be constructed, drainage impact, impact of dredging for dock, no well draw down study has been undertaken, no wetland drainage impact assessment) and inaccurate (e.g., figure 4-2 is wrong, public well #1 is not correctly located, public well #2 is not identified, figure 5-1 setback is inaccurate, width of ridge is inaccurately shown as 780 feet versus actual width of 615 feet, location of osprey nests are inaccurately located). With emotions running so high and with all that is at stake here, why is the Environmental Assessment incomplete and inaccurate? Will the omissions and inaccuracies be corrected prior to signing a lease. If not, who will ensure the omissions and inaccuracies are addressed before any constructions start?

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Unrelated to the Environmental Assessment, why does this camp have to be on such a large scale? The very size of this camp goes against your own master plan (i.e., the proposed camp area is designated in your plan as for forest management and wildlife management). Is this a change in philosophy or a reassignment of use? If so, why? I believe a camp on the same order of size as the previous Girl Scout Camp Daybreak, might be more palatable to the new camp's neighbors. Are there any assurances the camp will even remain at its current proposed size, or once a lease is signed could it grow even larger? Who will police the size and use of the camp and ensure MYCA meets applicable building codes? How involved will the US Corps of Engineers be during the construction period? How about during the use period?

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I would appreciate if you would address my concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

Alan A Bergeron  
2202 Scales Bend Road, NE  
North Liberty, IA 52317  
(319) 626-2118