

Matthew Rappe
Michigan State University
Sandra Mauel Ortega, Spanish Development Cooperation
The JCC: Rivers Run Red, Peru Mining Coalition

To Duarte Stroessner, Assistant to the Regional Manager of Perú, Spanish Development Cooperation,

My loyal friend, in less than a week I will be on my way to Perú to sit with the Mining Coalition and discuss the future of resource extraction in this developing economy. It will be my first time in the country since the election of Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and I hope he will continue to be open to foreign investment as his predecessors were. I believe an open market policy is key to development in Latin America, and our agency's ability to pry open these markets is key to another year of funding.

Funding for the Spanish Development Cooperation has been cut 70% over the past five years,¹ accelerated especially by the 2014 economic crisis in Spain. This fiscal year we have been granted a 5% raise in the budget, but I still worry about job security here and may wish to soon find a more lucrative position in the private sector. On the other hand, it would be sad to leave the agency when we continue to be such a force for good in the developing world, subsidizing public-private partnerships in education, health, and business.

There is certainly a lot of work to be done in these areas in Perú. My heart breaks whenever I hear about the tens of thousands poisoned by mercury. To tackle this, the Mining Coalition must assist in the distribution of the DMSA compound used to treat heavy metal poisoning. The Mining Coalition can also prevent further illegal strip mining by parceling off threatened land and encouraging in-situ recovery techniques to extract copper without harming the surface environment. Transportation infrastructure will be necessary for getting these goods to market. Our group should also encourage President Kuczynski to use the profits of resource extraction to the betterment of his people, so to ensure *indigenos*, *campesinos*, and miners do not deny their multinational corporate saviors.

¹ Sanchez, Gabriela. "El presupuesto de Cooperación para 2015 recupera un 5% tras el 70% recortado en cinco años." Eldiario.es. http://www.eldiario.es/desalambre/desmantelada-politica-Cooperacion-Desarrollo-niveles_0_308669419.html (accessed October 7, 2016)

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Next week I will be sitting at the table with some of the richest men in the world; I know some will be hesitant to listen to a woman from the public sector, but if they do not heed my suggestions I also know our environmental reports can make things very difficult for them.

Sincerely,
Sandra Mauel Ortega, Undersecretary for the Office of the Secretary-General for Development Cooperation (SGCID) of the Kingdom of Spain