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# Long bumper sticker has electric message

A bumper sticker read, "Until the last tree has fallen and all water has been drained from the last river, only then we will realize that we cannot drink electricity."

Water is becoming very valuable and will become even more precious in the future as it becomes more scarce and able to be bought and sold as a commodity. As citizens, we need to stand up for what is right and conserve and protect our natural water sources as well as water effluents.

In June, the Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) of the Champaign County Board will be considering a resolution opposing water withdrawals from the Salt Fork River to wash coal at a proposed coal mine southeast of Homer. Many may not realize that people in the country depend upon this water for drinking and household usage and that it is the water source for Oakwood and supplies water to wells of several area towns.

The Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD) is also contemplating the sale of their effluent (treated) water from the sewage plant to the proposed coal mine. That would drastically affect both the quality and quantity of water in the Salt Fork River. Everyone residing in Champaign and Vermilion counties should be concerned with this issue. It may affect the safety, availability and amount of your water source someday soon.

Please contact members of the Environment and Land Use Committee and Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District to encourage them to support the resolution opposing water withdrawals from the Salt Fork River.

CRYSTAL A. ALLEN

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