

Good morning.

My name is Jairo Epiayu, leader (*cabildo gobernador*) of the Wayúu indigenous community of Tamaquito 2, in the Guajira peninsula, in Colombia, South America.

Dominion buys coal from the Cerrejón mine in Colombia, in Guajira. Here in the United States people don't know where the energy you consume every day comes from. It's from the largest open-pit coal mine in the world, from our territory in Guajira, which belongs to the Wayúu and Afro-descendant communities.

The company that operates this mine known as Cerrejón has come to our lands violating our rights, discriminating against us, polluting, and putting an end to our livelihood, that is, our freedom, our right to fish, to hunt, to work, putting an end to the crops from which we would earn some cash to get by.

Does Dominion know about these problems faced by the community of Tamaquito 2?

Where is the social responsibility that the shareholders of Cerrejón and the company itself boast of? They talk about improving the quality of life, yet in their actions they do the opposite, destroying the quality of life in our communities.

They say that they are complying with World Bank standards regarding displacement and resettlement, but they are not.

We ask that Dominion find out for itself the harm caused to our communities as a result of the operations of Cerrejón. It could do so by conducting an independent investigation into the situation.

We also ask that Dominion send a representative on the July delegation that the organization Witness for Peace is sending to Colombia, and to the Guajira.

Finally, we ask that Dominion send a letter to Cerrejón expressing concern over the harm caused to our community by Cerrejón.

We want you to stay warm, but not at the cost of the destruction of our community and our culture.

Thank you very much.