



## *Cockpit Communities for Conservation*

Western Cockpit Country Districts  
c/o Clavie Johnson (Chairman)  
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September 15, 2015

The Honorable Mr. Phillip Paulwell, MP  
Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining  
36 Trafalgar Road  
Kingston 10

Dear Minister Paulwell,

**Re: Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence #541**

We the members of the Cockpit Communities for Conservation (CCFC), comprising of eighteen communities in the <sup>\*1</sup>western cockpit areas, wish to bring to your attention our concerns about the possibility of bauxite mining in and around our communities.

We have recently heard that Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence (SEPL #541) has been issued to Rusal and has been renewed every year. We strongly object to the prospect of bauxite mining in our area because this will destroy our environment, damage our water resources, destroy our communities, and our way of life – leaving us with no future and worse yet for our children.

We are currently implementing steps from our action plan to bring public awareness and engage a campaign around threats to the Cockpit Country. Numerous sensitization meetings have preceded this action plan.

We, with the partners from the front line in St. Ann, and representatives from the Accompong Maroons, are holding a press conference on September 23, 2015 at the Petroleum Cooperation of Jamaica (PCJ) Auditorium. On that day we will be in Kingston to communicate our mission, as stakeholders in the vanguard to defend our homes and livelihoods, with the delivery of pertinent letters to yourself and the Honorable Minister of the Environment, the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Mines and Geology Division, and National Environment and Planning Agency.

Minister, we are kindly asking you to meet with us at a public meeting in one of our communities, prior to the renewal date of SEPL#541 (November 15) so we can continue a dialogue. We expect to see a

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<sup>1</sup> \* SEPL541

non-renewal of SEPL#541 or a formal exclusion of our communities from this SEPL. We would be prepared to assist in organizing this meeting.

We do await your reply.

Yours truly,

Clavie E. Johnson  
Chairman, CCFC