

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2019

Hon. Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Joe Manchin III  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

We respectfully request that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee consider scheduling S. 1386, the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act, for the committee's next available hearing date.

Mining companies, both foreign and domestic, are governed today by a law that has changed little since the actual California Gold Rush that gave rise to the Act in the first place. Today, this Civil War-era statute gives individuals and corporations the authority to extract minerals from public lands without owing anything in royalties to the federal government—unlike any other industry, including coal, oil, and gas. A hearing would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders—states, environmental groups, and industries—to come together and discuss mining reform.

This hearing request and the underlying legislation are particularly timely in light of the Administration's proposed plan to "streamline" permitting and "improve access" to critical minerals on our public lands. If the Administration and Congress are to consider such significant changes to mining on public lands, they must address the lack of federal royalties and reclamation fees, and find a solution for the thousands of abandoned mines releasing toxic pollution into the limited water supplies across the West.

We respectfully request that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee consider a hearing for this important and long-overdue bill.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



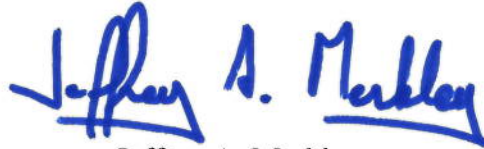
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



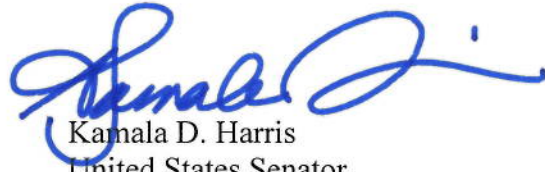
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



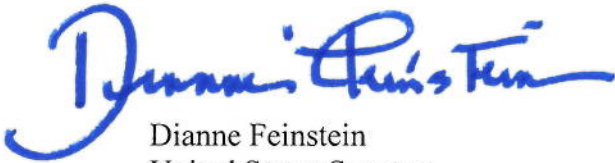
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator