**Northern Front Range Broadband News**

**It’s time to Urgently Mother Nature! Let’s use our Voices!**

**April 16, 2025**

This newsletter is a bit different from our usual one. It focuses on Advocacy and Education. I know that these are hard times, and we are all very busy. I’m asking you to look at the threat posed by mining on our public lands that we share, enjoy and are passionate to defend!

Think for a moment about the land you love. And how much it has given you – clean air, water, recreation, solitude, maybe even romance! Please speak out by writing today!

**Here’s the thing:**

**The Mining Regulatory Clarity Act is an unprecedented handout to the mining industry and an attack on our public lands. Yes, it incredibly makes the 1872 mining law worse, giving the industry (including foreign mining companies) unprecedented rights to unilaterally and permanently occupy public lands and decide where to dump toxic waste, build roads, and construct pipelines. It eliminates the BLM's opportunity and responsibility to manage for multiple uses, establishing mining which includes mining infrastructure and mining waste deposits as the 'best use'.**

Attached are two letters drafted for your use...one for addressing your Senators and one for addressing your Representatives in DC. Both letters are written to include attachments. You can personalize these letters for more effect!

For Representative Joe Neguse, you can send a letter to him at his website: <https://neguse.house.gov/contact>

For Senator Michael Bennet, you can send a message to him at his website:

<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/contact/>

For Senator John Hickenlooper, you can send an email to him at his website:

<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/contact/>

The first attachment is a much more detailed letter written and sent to Senators earlier this month when the S.544 was being considered in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

    *Mining Regulatory Clarity Act Opposition Letter 2025 - Markup Final 4-4-2025.pdf*

The letter was signed by a long list of organizations, including the Tucson Broadband of Great Old Broads for Wilderness.  Unfortunately S.B. 544 was passed out of Committee to the full senate on 4/9/2025 with limited bipartisan support .

The second attachment has more background with counter arguments to false claims by the bills supporters.

   MRCA Misleading Claims and Responses.pdf

A bill has been introduced in the House (H.B. 3644) that mirrors S.544 and has the same name. It has not yet been assigned to committee but needs to be addressed with the same passion, because it could move quite quickly if the current House majority so desires.

To give you all a running start, we have drafted two short letters for your use.

    **SENATE LETTER**:*'4.15 Mining Act Senate-Take Action'*

    **HOUSE LETTER**:   *'4.15 Mining Act House-Take Action'*

**Please edit them to personalize the issues from your own experience and perspective.  You can use bits and pieces of these letters and the resources provided in the attached LTEs or Op-Eds.**

**SENATE LETTER:**

April \_\_\_\_, 2025

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 As a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, I am writing to alert you that The Mining Regulatory Clarity Act S.544 is an egregious handout to the mining industry and an attack on our public lands.

Incredibly, it makes the 1872 mining law worse by giving the industry (including foreign mining companies) unprecedented authority to

•    unilaterally and permanently occupy public lands

•    decide where to dump toxic waste, build roads, and construct pipelines.

Furthermore, it eliminates the BLM's opportunity and responsibility to manage for multiple uses, which has long been the BLM's mandate.  Instead, it establishes mining, which includes mining infrastructure and mining waste disposal, as the 'best use' of our public lands!

The bill contains many more unconscionable threats to our public lands, water, wildlife and ecosystems. For more details, please see the attached letter which was written and sent to Senators earlier this month when the S.544 was being considered in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

 *Mining Regulatory Clarity Act Opposition Letter 2025 - Markup Final 4-4-2025.pdf*

The letter was signed by a long list of organizations, including the Tucson Broadband of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Unfortunately, S.544 was passed out of Committee to the full Senate on 4/9/2025 with a certain amount of bipartisan support.

I've also attached the companion document that was created at the time of the April 4 letter.

   *MRCA Misleading Claims and Responses.pdf*

I hope you will represent Westerners’ clearly pro-conservation values captured in Colorado College’s 2025 Conservation in the West poll. Residents in each of the Mountain West states were asked if they “preferred leaders place more emphasis on protecting water, air, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities over maximizing the amount of land for drilling and mining.” A clear majority of residents in every state said yes, including 55% in Wyoming and 68% in Montana.

**Please oppose the passage of S.544, whether as a stand-alone bill or as a part of a larger legislative package. I urge you to protect our public lands from further destruction.**

**Don’t hand industry unlimited power to profit from our public resource without restrictions.**

Sincerely,

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSE LETTER:**

As a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, I am writing to alert you that The Mining Regulatory Clarity Act H.B.1366 is an egregious handout to the mining industry and an attack on our public lands.

This House bill mirrors and shares the name with S.544. Incredibly, it makes the 1872 mining law worse by giving the industry (including foreign mining companies) unprecedented authority to

•    unilaterally and permanently occupy public lands

•    decide where to dump toxic waste, build roads, and construct pipelines.

Furthermore, it eliminates the BLM's opportunity and responsibility to manage for multiple uses, which has long been the BLM's mandate.  Instead, it establishes mining, which includes mining infrastructure and mining waste disposal, as the 'best use' of our public lands!

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 Thank you for speaking out on this approaching danger to our public lands.  Please let me know if you have written to your legislators.  If you have questions or would like to do a potluck with letter writing as a group, please let me know.

Wildly,

Anne