



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Dave Freudenthal
Governor of Wyoming
Chairman

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor of Utah
Vice Chairman

Pam O. Inmann
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

June 26, 2007

The Honorable Stephen Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Ariel Rios Bldg., Rm. 3000
Washington, D.C. 20460


Dear Administrator Johnson:


On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we would like to applaud your announcement on June 6 of new policies and administrative tools to reduce legal uncertainties under CERCLA that have hindered voluntary cleanups of abandoned mine sites. The "Good Samaritan Administrative Tools" will undoubtedly result in improvement to the quality of our environment through the cleanup of orphan mines. We appreciate the thoughtful effort that went into developing these tools, including your outreach to the Western Governors' Association and responsiveness to State concerns. We look forward to working with you in putting these new tools into practice.


Additionally, we appreciate your acknowledgement that, although these tools represent a significant step forward in cleaning up abandoned mines, targeted, bi-partisan legislation is still needed to address clean water concerns. We look forward to continuing our work with EPA in this effort as well.


Again, thank you for your leadership in developing the Good Samaritan Administrative Tools.

Sincerely,


M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota
WGA Lead Governor


Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
WGA Lead Governor


Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona
WGA Lead Governor


Bill Ritter
Governor of Colorado
WGA Lead Governor