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September 4, 2013

Honorable Mark Udall
730 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the support of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) for the Good Samaritan Cleanup of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2013 (S 1443). Western Governors have long advocated shielding from liability state agencies, non-profit groups and industry acting as Good Samaritans in the voluntary cleanup of abandoned mine sites. Thank you for your championship of this critical issue.

Attached please find the WGA's most recent policy resolution on this issue. In addition to offering support for the remedies proposed by your bill, Western Governors are on record stating that:

Legislative and administrative remedies to address potential CERCLA and RCRA liabilities should also be considered, as should liabilities associated with re-mining that deter the mining industry, likely the best suited industry in terms of equipment, technology and expertise, from improving conditions at abandoned mine sites.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if Western Governors can be of any assistance in advancing your important legislation that, when enacted, will result in improved water quality throughout the West.

Respectfully,

John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

Attachment