



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper  
Governor of Colorado  
Chairman

Brian Sandoval  
Governor of Nevada  
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury  
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 376  
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402  
Fax 202-624-7707

[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

September 4, 2013

Honorable Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tipton:

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 (HR 2970). 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