



WESTERN  
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November 13, 2009

The Honorable Mark Udall  
Senator  
317 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
Senator  
483 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
Senator  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Udall, Risch and Bennet:

On behalf of the Western Governors' Association, we commend you for introducing S. 1777, the "Good Samaritan Cleanup of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2009." Western Governors support this bill and urge that it be enacted this Congress.

Western Governors have consistently supported passage of Good Samaritan legislation as one of our high priorities regarding water quality, as abandoned and inactive mines are responsible for many of the greatest threats and impairments to water quality across the Western United States. Your legislation will provide States and other possible Good Samaritans with important Clean Water Act liability protections necessary to conduct voluntary cleanups. These protections will result in cleanup efforts at historic mining sites across the West and assure the cleanups protect and improve the environment.


Western Governors appreciate your targeted approach to resolving this issue. We commend you for introducing S. 1777 and urge its passage this Congress.


Sincerely,

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
WGA Lead Governor

Mike Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota  
WGA Lead Governor

The Honorable Mark Udall  
The Honorable James Risch  
The Honorable Michael Bennet  
November 13, 2009  
Page 2

  
Bill Ritter  
Governor of Colorado  
WGA Lead Governor

  
Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico  
WGA Lead Governor

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable James Inhofe, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency