

March 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

We, as faith-based organizations, expect Congress to ensure that laws governing our nation's natural resources prioritize protection of communities and the environment. We therefore feel the need to express strong opposition to the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act (S. 544/H.R. 1366).

We fear that this legislation would weaken the already outdated 1872 Mining Law and give even more control over our public lands to the mining industry. Very little would stop multinational companies from dumping toxic waste and constructing pipelines, roads and other infrastructure on our precious public land. Their unlimited access could block use of the land for cultural and spiritual practices as well as for renewable energy projects, watershed protection and recreation.

As a diverse group of faith groups, we share a commitment to addressing the current and future harms of climate change on communities in the U.S. and around the world where we minister. We recognize the need to strengthen and secure supply chains for the minerals required for the transition to a renewable energy economy.

Our [faith-based principles for sourcing minerals for the energy transition](#) call for attending to survival of sacred lands and water, the health of communities and respect for Native people in this process. This includes:

- Inviting communities on or near proposed mining sites into active participation in decision-making, from the earliest point of the process through its completion;
- Requiring strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards and protection of human rights for the duration of the mining process; and
- Investing in research and implementation of less extractive methods of sourcing minerals, such as recycling and reuse of minerals and batteries.

The Mining Regulatory Clarity Act doesn't come close to fulfilling these principles. In fact, it takes us in the opposite direction.

We are more encouraged by the Mining Waste, Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (S. 859), introduced last week by Sen. Lujan. This bill requires that companies pay royalties for minerals extracted from public lands, sets strong environmental standards for mineral mining and cleanup of abandoned mines, and mandates meaningful tribal consultation before issuing mineral mining permits that would impact those communities. Importantly, the bill also grants federal land managers authority to protect certain public land from mineral mining.

Mining has caused immeasurable destruction and is the No. 1 source of toxic pollution for many communities, such as people living in the Navajo Nation suffering from decades of health hazards from uranium mining. Our sacred places, wilderness,

recreation access, and public health will be under even greater threat from mining with passage of the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.

We urge you to oppose this legislation when it comes before the committee.

Sincerely,

**National and international organizations**

Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region JPIC Office  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Friends Service Committee  
Anabaptist Climate Collaborative  
Catholic Climate Covenant  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente DHUMA  
Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill  
Franciscan Action Network  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Integrity for Nonviolence  
Medical Mission Sisters, North America Justice Office  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Religious Partnership for the Environment  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Order of Lutheran Franciscans  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Anne, St. Marie Community  
Sisters of Saint Francis, Rochester, MN  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Albany, NY  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community  
United Church of Christ  
Wheaton Franciscan Justice and Peace Office

**State and local organizations**

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. Washington, D.C.  
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, AZ

Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa  
Georgia Interfaith Power Light  
Holy Cross Sisters  
Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD, N. Virginia)  
Jewish Earth Alliance, PA  
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light  
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power & Light  
Oregon Interfaith Power & Light  
Saint Nicholas Lutheran, Huntington, MD  
Shepherd of the Hills Church, Phoenix, AZ  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia  
Partnership for Earth Spirituality, New Mexico