





**Dave Woodruff**  
City Councilor

**949 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**  
**Durango, CO 81301**

(970) 375-5000   
[www.durangoCO.gov](http://www.durangoCO.gov) 

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Dear Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper,

I write to you as a Durango City Councilmember to express my full support for the Gold King Mine Compensation Act and to highlight its critical importance for the businesses and communities downstream of the Gold King Mine spill.

On August 5, 2015, an accidental release of approximately three million gallons of acid mine drainage from the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colorado, contaminated Cement Creek, the Animas River, the San Juan River, and the Colorado River as it traveled through Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Nations. The environmental, economic, and cultural impacts of this spill were devastating, particularly for the businesses that rely on the Animas River for their livelihood. In response, the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site was designated to address mining-related sources releasing metal-laden materials into Mineral and Cement creeks and the Upper Animas River drainages.

The Gold King Mine Compensation Act would finally provide the necessary legal framework for compensating the impacted businesses. This legislation is crucial to addressing the lasting consequences of the Gold King Mine spill and ensuring that businesses in our communities, as well as in neighboring regions, receive the financial relief they deserve.

I am in full support of this legislation which will provide much-needed assistance to the businesses that depend on a healthy Animas River.

Sincerely,





**Dave Woodruff**  
Councilmember, City of Durango City Council



**Melissa Youssef**  
City Councilor

**949 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**  
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Sincerely,

**Melissa Youssef**  
Councilmember, City of Durango City Council



**Gilda Yazzie**  
City Council Mayor Pro Tem

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December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Dear Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper,

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Sincerely,

**Gilda Yazzie**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Durango City Council



**Jessika Buell**  
City Council Mayor

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December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

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Sincerely,

**Jessika Buell**

Mayor, City of Durango City Council