

Mining Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Prevention Act of 2025 Endorsement

Quotes

“For too long, mining companies have received a sweetheart deal from the government allowing them to enrich themselves with minerals from our public lands while avoiding federal royalties or reclamation mandates,” **said Earthjustice Action Senior Legislative Representative Blaine Miller-McFeeley.** “This bill would finally require mining companies to pay their fair share for mineral extraction while protecting communities, special places, and water resources from exploitation and degradation—something current mining law has failed to do. Meaningful mining reform, coupled with increased mineral recycling, will allow us to secure our mineral supply chains and meet demand in the most sustainable and just way possible.”

Earthworks Senior Policy Counsel Aaron Mintzes said: “This bill is a desperately needed and overdue comprehensive overhaul of US hardrock mining law. It will benefit taxpayers, recognize the rights of Indigenous communities and others affected by mining, and protect irreplaceable waters and habitats. Mining companies currently have subsidized access to taxpayer-owned minerals without paying royalties and without protections for the rights and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples, residents, and the environment. Our outdated mining law was written in 1872 and benefits only mining companies. This transformative bill could change all that.”

Duane Clarke, Chairperson, Hualapai Tribe said, "Indigenous peoples have lived on these lands long before the creation of the United States. Yet the Mining Law of 1872 gives companies the power to intrude on our sacred places, destroy precious wildlife habitats, and pollute our communities in search of their profit. The backwards priorities of this law are two centuries out of date, and its reform is long overdue."

Isabella Jaramillo, government relations representative for The Wilderness Society said “Public lands belong to all of us, and it’s our responsibility to make sure they are responsibly managed--not depleted or damaged without accountability or community input. One of the most important steps in ensuring that is reforming the General Mining Act of 1872, which comes from a time when natural resources seemed inexhaustible and the environmental consequences of mining were not considered. We are encouraged by the introduction of the Mining Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Prevention Act of 2025 and hope to see lawmakers pass it and finally usher us out of the age of 19th century energy policy.”

“This is a blueprint for making mining actually work in this country that brings our woefully antiquated 1872 Mining Law into the 21st Century,” **said Josh Axelrod, Senior Policy Advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council.** “Our land managers need the tools necessary to properly site mines and ensure environmental impacts are managed, while industry needs the certainty that comprehensive reforms can bring. And frontline communities, especially indigenous communities, must be given a say in the siting and

planning process. These reforms create a rational path forward for mining in this country and can help support our mineral needs.”

"Tribal sovereignty, community, and environmental protections have taken a back seat to the mining industry for more than 150 years, it's high time for that to change. In a time when hardrock mining is front and center in the American energy conversation, mining companies and lawmakers owe it to the American public to make sure their needs are heard and that's why the Mining Waste, Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act must pass," **said Amber Reimondo energy director, Grand Canyon Trust**

"Inappropriately sited mines and legacy mining pollution takes an inordinate toll on clean water, Tribes, local communities, conservation values, and outdoor recreation. A 150-year-old law is no way to govern such a high-impact use of our public lands and waters, particularly when we will need to do more mining to meet the needs of a clean energy transition. The Mining Waste, Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act will help to protect the myriad values our public lands and waters provide and help to reduce conflict so that appropriately sited and managed mining projects can proceed with greater certainty," **said Louis Geltman, Vice President for Policy & Government Relations, Outdoor Alliance.**

“Mining threats to our national parks and monuments continue to grow with real impacts already being felt from Mojave to the Grand Canyon. Across the country, there are hundreds of active mining claims inside national parks and thousands more just outside their borders. In fact, over 30% of all mining claims on public lands are within 30 miles of a national park or monument. Without action, these special places remain vulnerable to harmful extractive development under a mining law that hasn’t been meaningfully updated in over 150 years. It’s time to modernize our laws to ensure that responsible mineral development doesn’t come at the expense of America’s most treasured landscapes. NPCA applauds Sen. Lujan and Rep. Grijalva for leading the charge to bring long-overdue balance to mining on our public lands,” **said Charlie Olsen, Energy and Public Lands Policy Manager, National Parks Conservation Association.**

“Fair royalties, the ability to protect sacred sites and sources of drinking water, and funding for abandoned mine cleanups are essential components of a modern mining law. We appreciate the efforts to craft policy solutions that balance responsible domestic mining with conservation,” **said Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited.** “We look forward to working with all stakeholders to help advance mining legislation that ensures certainty needed by industry while providing the tools and resources needed to clean up abandoned mines – one of the nation’s biggest threats to clean water.”