



May 5, 2023

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

The Western Small Miners Association is writing you to express our support for S.636, the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act. We have had a number of conversations with the Lower Dolores Workgroup over the years, and recently met again with representatives of that group. We have reviewed the maps associated with the legislation, and compared the areas with known and high-probability developable mineral bodies and we're satisfied that the bill will not significantly impair the development of mineral extraction in the region.

Importantly, the legislation protects all the existing uranium lease tracts under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy. We believe it is important to do so as part of a diverse energy mix for our country.

We appreciate the care you have taken to avoid conflicts with mineral development, and again express our support for S.636.

Sincerely,

John Reams, President
Western Small Miners Association