



May 4, 2019

**The Honorable Paul Gosar**  
**Ranking Member**  
**House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Ranking Member Gosar:

We write to you today to express our concern regarding the Hardrock Leasing and Reclamation Act of 2019, as drafted. The mining industry in Arizona has a long and proud history, delivering significant economic growth since before we became a state. In recognition of this important contribution, our state flag even features a copper star.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry advocates in support of free-market policies that stimulate economic growth and prosperity for all Arizonans. We believe that to maintain a strong economy, Arizona must attract and develop businesses in diverse industry sectors. The Chamber supports policies that improve Arizona's economic vitality, retain existing businesses, and spur new business growth and job creation.

Mining continues to play an important role in the continued economic growth and development of Arizona's future. The total economic impact of the hard rock mining industry in Arizona is \$4.29 billion and creates nearly 44,000 direct and indirect jobs. Further, the total state and local taxes generated by mining companies and their employees in the state is \$482 million, with even more tax revenues going to the federal government.

As one of the most regulated industries in the United States, hard rock mining is subject to a myriad of federal and state environmental regulations governing the initiation, operation, and cleanup of mine sites. We support this existing and rigorous framework because it promotes a safer mining industry and helps to protect the people of our state and its remarkable treasures. However, duplicative and onerous regulatory burdens do not improve outcomes, but rather result in chilled economic investment, fleeing industries, and significant job losses.

While we seek to ensure an appropriate regulatory balance between protecting Arizonans and supporting new and existing economic growth, we oppose targeted legislative proposals that would imperil longstanding and important industries such as mining. Inversely, we support legislative efforts that promote responsible governance and wise regulation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hamer". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the beginning.

Glenn Hamer  
President and CEO