



**ARIZONA CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

May 9, 2022

Hon. Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Alan Lowenthal  
Chairman  
House Natural Resource Committee  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Peter Stauber  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resource Committee  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Westerman, Chairman Lowenthal, and Ranking Member Stauber:

We write to you today to express our concern regarding H.R. 7580, the Clean Energy and Minerals Reform Act of 2022. The mining industry in Arizona has a long and proud history, delivering significant economic growth since before we became a state. If this legislation were to be enacted, the mining industry's future viability in Arizona would be jeopardized.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & 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. The mining industry is central to that mission.

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.

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New innovations in the manufacturing, technology, and energy sectors are placing increased demands on the need for hardrock minerals. We support permitting reforms that allow for greater environmentally-responsible domestic resource development instead of increasing the country's reliance on imports.

As one of the most regulated industries in the world, the hardrock mining industry continually looks for ways to improve worker safety and environmental outcomes. The industry is also subject to a myriad of federal and state environmental regulations governing the initiation, operation, and cleanup of mine sites.

Unfortunately, supporters of H.R. 7580 apparently ignore both the industry's commitment to environmental stewardship and the regulatory regime under which the industry operates. Our organization supports the current regulatory framework, but duplicative and onerous regulatory burdens will not improve outcomes. The bill's punitive provisions will ensure no new domestic investment in mines on federal lands and eviscerate the very revenue stream that bill proponents claim they wish to use for cleanup and remediation.

While we seek to ensure an appropriate regulatory balance between protecting Arizonans and supporting new and existing economic growth, the Arizona Chamber would urge lawmakers to support responsible resource development policies that encourage increased domestic production of the minerals and metals that are essential to manufacturing, clean energy technologies and our national defense. This type of thoughtful policy will improve supply chain security and bolster economic growth and innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Seiden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danny Seiden  
President and CEO