

PERSHING COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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May 4, 2022

Chairman Raul Grijalva  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Bruce Westerman  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

Please accept the following statement for the official record regarding the May 12, 2022, hearing on H.R. 7580, the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022 the views of the Pershing County Commission of Pershing County, Nevada.

Pershing County is located in northwest Nevada and we are a rural community averaging about 1 square mile per person in the county. Mining and the discovery of silver brought people to Unionville which was one of Nevada's most vibrant mining camps in the 1860's. Although a ghost town today, mining has never left Pershing County and today we are fortunate to have many mines actively mining in our County and many exploration projects are underway. 75% of Pershing County is owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Without economic activity occurring on these BLM lands, it would be hard to see how communities could survive here. These mines provide high paying jobs that raise families and contribute greatly to our communities. These companies contribute to our communities in a variety of ways and they have been good corporate citizens of our county. We support responsible mining in our County and we oppose Congressional efforts to drive mining off Federal lands. When mines close in Pershing County, people are forced to leave. There are simply very few jobs available to our residents that can replace mining careers.

Pershing County opposes H.R. 7580, the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022 due to the devastating impacts it would have on the U.S. mining industry, the State of Nevada, and Pershing County and our citizens. H.R. 7580 would tax our mining industry out of existence. U.S. mining companies compete in a world market and additional Federal taxes will send investments to other countries.



Page Two  
May 4, 2022

H.R. 7580 would dramatically raise taxes on the hardrock mining industry establishing a gross royalty rate of 8-12.5%. The legislation would also implement a \$.07 per ton "dirt tax" that would tax miners for every ton of earth moved. The bill would implement new prospecting license fees and double claims maintenance fees. These new taxes would place US hardrock mining as the highest taxed mining industry in the world. Enactment of H.R. 7580 would push our mining industry to other countries where they do not take care of their workers or their communities, or the environment. Congress should work with the industry to make reasonable changes in the law that will ensure mining continues in places like Pershing County. Please oppose H.R. 7580.

Sincerely,

PERSHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Shayla Hudson  
Chair