

STEVEN HORSFORD
4TH DISTRICT, NEVADA



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Subcommittee Chairman Lowenthal:

I write to you to discuss my deep concern with the *Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act* (H.R.7580). This legislation would have a devastating effect in Nevada's 4th Congressional District that would lead to job losses, maintain our reliance on foreign countries for critical minerals, and have an adverse and negative effect on rural communities in my district.

Nevada mining produces more than 20 minerals and metals that Americans use every day. Nevada is one of the largest gold producers in the world and is responsible for nearly 80% of all U.S. annual production. In addition, it has the only operating lithium mine in North America with several proposed lithium mines currently under review. These minerals will be critical moving forward to provide clean energy, produce batteries for electric vehicles, and new technologies.

Mining is also a major economic driver in Nevada, providing workers with some of the highest wages, with an average salary nearly double that of the state average. In fact, in 2018, the industry paid over \$2.4 billion in wages. At a time of rising inflation and my State still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, now is especially not the time to introduce more taxes that may lead to job loss in one of the most important sectors of Nevada's economy.

In addition, with Russia illegally invading Ukraine and China seeking a larger and larger hegemonic role in global affairs, it is clear that we must work at ensuring a robust domestic supply of critical minerals to ensure our national security. As a member of the Critical Minerals Caucus, I understand how important it is to ensure we have these minerals which are found in our homes, smartphones, and transportation methods. Our hardrock mining industry is a solution to address these issues, not the problem.

Since the founding of the Comstock Lode in the 1850's, mining has been a rich part of Nevada's economy and culture, making us known worldwide as the Silver State. I will continue fighting for this important industry that is critical to my constituents in Nevada's 4th Congressional District.

I appreciate you reviewing my concerns. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Herzik of my staff at Kevin.Herzik@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-9894.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Horsford".

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

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