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Sullivan
LD 1073

I am submitting testimony to protect lands from metallic mining that this bill provides. A few of the solutions that LD 1073 provides:

A comprehensive baseline health assessment for mining communities prior to initiation of mining operations. It also requires periodic reevaluation. There are no specific human health protections or evaluations in the current Metallic Mineral Mining law.

Communities affected by mining should be granted a 'Right to Know' status in a transparent, contemporaneous and public manner. This will allow communities to understand the risks from potential exposure to toxic materials from mining operations.

This bill would also require that there is adequate monitoring of toxic waste after closure. The monitoring will occur for as long as the danger of contamination persists and not terminate at an arbitrary date while the toxic waste may still be harmful. The monitoring must be active, and there must be financial assurance to cover the monitoring and any remediation. The health and economic burden should not be placed on communities long after the mining operations have been terminated.

In the current mining laws you have to have a violation in order to have protection of human health. This bill provides an intervention step to help prevent mining violations.

I sincerely believe that protection of public health from metallic mineral mining is important, and therefore am submitting testimony of support for LD 1073.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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