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## **Letter: Congress would tax mining too heavily**

Mining is an important industry in our state. The jobs of thousands of people here directly or indirectly rely on hard-rock mining that produces metals and minerals needed by a growing economy and a strong national defense.

Now some in Congress want to tax the industry out of business by imposing the highest mining royalty found anywhere in the world.

Those of us in the mining community support a fair payment on profits earned from mineral mining on public lands, in addition to the fees our companies already pay. But we don't support a royalty payment that would tax our industry and our jobs away, that ignores the swings in mineral and metals prices that are set on global markets, not here in the United States.

We already operate in a high-cost region of the world because of wages and regulatory red tape. Now Congress would deny us the ability to deduct the rising costs of steel, fuel, machinery and other costs from the world's highest mining tax.

If Americans wonder why we are losing high-wage manufacturing jobs to foreign countries and importing more and more of what we can produce ourselves, they need look no further than the latest offering from Washington.

**William G. Canon**  
**Roundup**

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