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## Encourage NO vote on HR 2262

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If we care about our community and our heritage of hard-rock mining of minerals, it's time for us to call our congressman and make our voices heard. If we don't, Congress will pass a new general mining law that will devastate our domestic hard-rock mining industry.

The bill in question is HR 2262 and it's already been approved by the House Natural Resources Committee. If enacted into law, the bill would impose the highest taxes in the world on our mining operations by levying a whopping 8 percent royalty on any new mining operations and a new, retroactive 4 percent levy on existing operations that weren't designed to be able to deal with such a cost. And, it would allow political appointees and bureaucrats to stop a mining project that has already obtained their permits and meets all environmental and legal requirements without review, and at the stroke of a pen.

America already has a very high cost structure for mining. We pay our people well and provide good benefits, but we also have very high compliance costs to deal with regulations. Imposing these new costs and risks would make mining in America an uneconomic business, and would have the effect of making American minerals uncompetitive on the world market.

The result would be greater American dependence on minerals supplied by foreign countries who would be free to manipulate supplies and prices. And, as the domestic mining industry fades, those good paying American mining jobs would be lost as they are exported to friendlier, more profitable markets.

It's our responsibility to stop this ill conceived policy before it's too late. Call your congressman and tell him to vote NO on HR 2262.