

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/10992986.html>

Nov. 3, 2007

Mining reform

To the editor:

Thank you for your Oct. 21 editorial headlined: "Draconian mining reform." It was well-timed, as the Democrat-controlled Congress attempts to rewrite mining law to the detriment of a stable domestic mining industry.

If passed into law, H.R. 2262 will have severe consequences for all Americans -- and especially the citizens of Nevada. Any efforts to reform mining law should encourage stable investments and increase the incentives to mine domestically while ensuring protection of the environment. Revisions should also be made with an eye toward reducing lawsuits involving mining on public lands and encouraging the public's involvement in the process while allowing for a fair return to them for opening the lands to mining activity.

As your editorial illustrates, H.R. 2262 does none of these things.

The public should not allow themselves to be fooled. If this legislation is passed in its current form, it will have a direct impact on our local economies through substantial increases in the prices we all pay for goods and services. It will also force us to move toward an increased reliance on foreign sources of minerals, while providing for no environmental protection or return on the public's investment.

The predictable, resultant decimation of local economies where mining is the No. 1 industry would drive the last nail into the coffin of rural stability.

We should thank Nevada's congressional delegation for standing up against this short-sighted bill and demand that Congress do a better job in achieving honest mining law reform.

Joni Eastley