



SIERRA VISTA THE HERALD

[Home](#) > [Opinion](#) > [Letters To Editor](#)

Mining bill is bad for Arizona and America

Published on Tuesday, November 06, 2007
To the Editor:

Congress is about to consider and possibly pass a new general mining law that would deal a serious blow to the American hardrock mining industry. It's HR 2262 and it would have significant negative impact not only on our mining industry, but also on our communities here in Arizona.

If passed, HR 2262 would impose the highest taxes in the world on American minerals. New mining operations would face paying an 8 percent royalty and existing operations would be forced to pay a new retroactive 4 percent levy that isn't a part of their current cost structure.

While it's a fact that our mining law should provide a fair return to taxpayers for the use of federal lands, and should adequately protect the environment, this law simply goes too far.

H.R. 2262 is a bad bill for Arizona miners and for hardrock mining communities such as ours. This legislation would make American minerals uncompetitive and the most expensive on the market, and we would lose many good paying mining jobs here at home as they are exported to more mining friendly countries. Congress should reject this bill and rethink what really works for the taxpayers and for our hardrock mining industry.

Craig Cowlings

Sierra Vista