



May 10, 2022

## **STOP the GOLD GIVEAWAY**

*It's been 150 years since the 1872 Mining Law was enacted. It's past time to get taxpayers a royalty for gold, silver, copper and other hardrock minerals mined on Federal Lands.*

**Dear Member of Congress,**

Today marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Mining Law of 1872. Signed by President Ulysses S. Grant as an incentive to develop the West, the now century-and-a-half year old law still largely governs hardrock mining operations on federal land. The outdated law allows gold, silver, and other precious metals to be mined and profited from without compensation to the resource owners, federal taxpayers.

Unlike other companies extracting resources on federal lands, such as oil, gas, and coal, hardrock mining companies are not required to pay royalties to taxpayers for the sale of publicly owned minerals including highly lucrative gold, silver, and copper

In addition to royalty-free operations, the Mining Law's minimal oversight allowed mining companies to regularly abandoned shuttered mine sites. Federal agencies estimate there are more than 500,000 sites in need of some form of reclamation. These abandoned sites often

leave behind hazardous waste, other pollution and safety risks. A royalty assessed on hardrock mining would create a much-needed revenue stream for abandoned mine cleanup.

Over the years, the face of hardrock mining across America has changed dramatically—from the pickaxe and shovel, to now heavily mechanized, large-scale operations. Yet, despite these changes the 1872 Mining Law has remained the law of the land.

Congress must stop this egregious giveaway and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for the gold, silver, and other precious metals we all own. It is time to enact a royalty, permanently end the claim-patent system, and reduce hardrock clean up liabilities.

For more information see our new fact sheet [here](#).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Ellis" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Ellis  
President