

Contact legislators TODAY in support of HB220 and HB255



*20 Years of Promoting Healthy Communities
by Protecting Our Environment*

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Defend Our Water Quality & Speak Up for HB220 & HB255
Contact Legislators Today!

Instead of falling victim to the fear mongering of Freeport-McMoRan and the Silver City/Grant County Chamber of Commerce, find out the facts and defend our community, our water quality and environment by supporting House Bill 220 and House Bill 255 being considered right now in the 60-day legislative session.

HB255 Would Phase Out Corporate Guarantees in Mining Act Permits

HB255 would phase out corporate guarantees from an affiliated corporation in Mining Act permits, closing a loophole in the law that lets mining companies shift up to 75% of the financial burden and environmental risk for cleanup and reclamation onto the taxpayer and local communities.

- **\$104 million I.O.U at Freeport-McMoRan's Grant County mines puts taxpayers and communities at risk for mine cleanup and reclamation.**
 - The Chino/Cobre and Tyrone mines currently have [\\$104 million in a corporate guarantee](#) provided by Freeport-McMoRan subsidiary Freeport Minerals Corporation.
 - If Freeport Minerals goes bankrupt and can no longer cover this environmental liability, then the State of New Mexico will have to put up the cash for the cleanup or more likely, \$104 million in reclamation and cleanup would not be done and Grant County residents would have to bear the environmental risk of incomplete cleanup.
 - New Mexico already had a close call with Freeport-McMoRan serving as corporate guarantor when it [failed the Financial Soundness Test](#) in 2015 - 2016.
- **New Mexico is already picking up the tab for \$43 million in remediation from a bankrupt company, a situation HB255 will prevent from happening at Freeport's mines.**
 - I & W Trucking drilled a brine well in Carlsbad and pumped the groundwater for use in oil and gas production. The company went bankrupt and left behind a tremendous environmental liability with no way to pay for remediation.

- [The state legislature approved \\$43 million last year to remediate](#) the huge cavern left behind by the company before it collapses and potentially causes an estimated \$1 billion in damages.

We can't afford to let this happen in our community!

Please support HB255 to ensure that sufficient financial resources are in place to cleanup and reclaim our mine sites to protect our environment and public health!

HB220 Would Require Copper Mines to Comply with Water Quality Standards

[HB220](#) would nullify those provisions of the Copper Mine Rule that allow copper mines to pollute groundwater above New Mexico water quality standards.

- **Currently under the [Martinez Administration's Copper Rule](#), copper mines are exempt from meeting groundwater quality standards.**
 - The rule effectively removed the Water Quality Act requirement to prevent pollution and now allows mines to legally contaminate groundwater.
- **Grant County's water supplies are at risk under the Copper Rule.**
 - Grant County is 100% dependent upon its groundwater for drinking water.
 - If Freeport is unable to contain groundwater contamination and pump and treat it in perpetuity, community water supplies could become contaminated.
- **HB220 would return New Mexico to the original Water Quality Act regulatory framework prior to the Copper Rule and will not end mining in Grant County.**
 - Before the Copper Rule, Freeport-McMoRan's Grant County mines operated in compliance with the Water Quality Act and had approved discharge permits and were issued variances as necessary.

Please support HB220 to require copper mines to comply with the Water Quality Act and protect Grant County's water supplies for future generations.

CONTACT LEGISLATORS TODAY IN SUPPORT OF HB220 & HB255

Copper mining is important to the economy of Grant County. But this economic activity can't come at the expense of community health.

Tell our legislators that you support HB220 and HB255 that will protect our community, our water supplies and environment from the impacts of copper mining!

Representative Rebecca Dow (R-Grant, Hidalgo & Sierra)
rebecca.dow@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4453

Representative Rudy Martinez (D-Dona Ana, Grant & Sierra) rodolpho.martinez@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4233

House Judiciary Committee (HB255 will be heard in HJC on Monday 2/11 at 1:30 pm)

Representative Gail Chasey, Chair, (D- Bernalillo)
gail@gailchasey.com; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4411;

Representative Damon Ely, Vice-Chair (D- Bernalillo, Sandoval)
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Representative Eliseo Lee Alcon (D-Cibola & McKinley)
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Representative Deborah A. Armstrong (D- Bernalillo)
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Representative Micaela Lara Cadena (D - Dona Ana)
micaela.cadena@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4210

Representative Christine Chandler (D-Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe) christine.chandler@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4226

Representative Zachary J. Cook (R-Lincoln & Otero)
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Representative Brian Egolf (D- Santa Fe)
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Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil (D- Bernalillo)
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Representative Georgene Louis (D- Bernalillo)
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Representative Matthew McQueen (D-Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia)matthew.mcqueen@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4423

Representative Greg Nibert (R-Chaves & Lincoln)
greg.nibert@nmlegis.gov; Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4211

Representative William R. Rehm (R-Bernalillo)
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Representative James G. Townsend (R-Chaves, Eddy and Otero)
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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!

Gila Resources Information Project