



Institute for
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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Contact: Derek Sylvan | (212) 998-6085 | derek.sylvan@nyu.edu

STATEMENT ON LEGISLATION TO REFORM ANTIQUATED HARDROCK MINING LAWS

Today, Senators Raúl M. Grijalva and Tom Udall announced legislation that aims to reform the nation’s antiquated hardrock mining laws, which cover gold, silver, and other minerals. Currently, companies do not pay royalties to the government for mining these materials on public lands, and regulations have scarcely changed since the Mining Act of 1872. New bills in the House and Senate would replace existing regulations with a modern leasing and royalty system and that better protects American public lands and taxpayers.

Jayni Hein, Natural Resources Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“Hardrock mining reform is more than a century overdue. Mining imposes myriad environmental and social costs on public lands, yet companies pay zero royalties to the public. Current hardrock mining laws are a relic of the Wild West that are plainly irrational in modern society.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law has worked extensively on federal mineral leasing and royalty policy issues. Jayni Hein published an [academic article](#) on natural resource royalties and the case for increasing rates. Please let me know if you’d like to speak with her about the new legislation or related issues.

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[The Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.