



Washington's Attorney General and Activists Fight Environmental Disaster

Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. with the LD Democrats. *Links below.*

Ask the people around you if they know an 1872 Mining Law still allows mining companies to buy public land for \$5 an acre. Ask if they know that mining companies keep all the profits, pay no royalties, and leave toxic superfund sites across the West for taxpayers to clean up.



Washington's Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, is standing up for change.

He's suing a Canadian mining company for what it left behind from the Buckhorn Mountain gold mine near Chesaw, in Okanogan County, Washington. Records indicate Ferguson is holding it liable for violating the Clean Water Act 3,539 times. Hear AG Ferguson talk about his fight for what is right.



Businessman and activist, Michael "Buffalo" Mazzetti lives near Buckhorn Mountain and has fought the mine for 30 years. Buffalo will show slides and talk about how it takes more than one strategy to stop a multinational company from putting cyanide and other toxic chemicals into watersheds.

Okanogan County



What we can do as Democrats to reform the 1872 Mining Law:

- Resolution – present to other LDs. Washington can lead legislative reform.
- Meet with/write/call Washington's U.S. Senators and Representatives across Washington state. Urge them to join efforts by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) for legislative reform.
- Anyone with contacts in Kentucky or Nevada: What would it take for Sen. Joe Manchin (D-KY) and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) to NOT reject the above reforms, proposed by the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022.
- Ask Buffalo to share his presentation at your LD or other organizational meeting.

More about why we need mining reform

- [YouTube, "1872 Mining Reform," Earthworks](#) (1:17 minutes)
- [YouTube, "Mining the New American West," National Geographic](#) (5:55 minutes)
- [YouTube, "Hardrock Mining - Re-think, Reform," Outdoor Alliance](#) (5:30 minutes)
- [Okanoganhighlands.org](#)
- [Purewater.org](#)
- [Earthworks.org](#)
- [TheDiggings.com](#), "Washington has 58,272 records of mining claims on public land"
- KREM-TV Spokane, [Estimated \\$3 billion gold deposit found in North Washington](#), 8 February 2023
- Spokesman Review, J Hanlon, [Canadian mining company reports finding \\$3 billion gold deposit near Republic](#), 6 February 2023
- Crosscut, J Stang, [Polluting WA gold mine broke environmental laws 3,539 times](#), 25 October 2022
- Wa. State Office of the Attorney General, [Court rules gold mining company violated the law more than 3,000 times in Okanogan County](#), 20 October 2022
- Wa. State Office of the Attorney General, [AG Ferguson statement after major win in Buckhorn gold mine Clean Water Act case](#), 18 June 2021
- [Text H.R.7580 \(2021-2022\): Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
- [Text S. 4083 Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022 - Content Details - \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
- High Country News, [Two Democrats Kill Chances of reforming the Outdated Hardrock Mining Law](#), 18 November 2021
- C-Span, [Senate hearing on 1872 Mining Law](#), 5 October 2021
- High Country News, [The 1872 Mining Law: A Stake in the West's Heart](#), 4 June 1990

Join us for this program at the 32nd LD April 5 meeting at 6:30 p.m. via this live link on [Zoom](#) or phone-in: 1-253-215-8782, ID 967-7507-3456

For more information, contact: chair@32democrats.org or see website 32democrats.org