

Resolution 19-03
Town of Ridgway, Colorado

A Resolution in Support of House Bill 19-1113, to Amend the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, together with its residents, property owners, businesses, visitors and stakeholders, agree that water bodies, streams and rivers should be protected; and that the local community of Ridgway has benefitted from protection of the watershed and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's rivers and streams have been impacted by historic mining activities that were not conducted in an environmentally protective manner, including our own Uncompahgre River; and

WHEREAS, Town of Ridgway has participated actively and cooperatively through the years with many partners to protect water quality; and

WHEREAS, sound and reasonable mining regulations that protect the public interest and require mines to conduct operations in a manner that does not cause a public fiscal burden is in the best interests of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado should have all reasonable authorities to require adequate financial assurances and guarantees from mining operators so that the costs of reclamation and protecting water quality do not fall on the public; and

WHEREAS, mines should be required to provide a defined end point for restoring water quality and completing reclamation once mining operations have ended in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly is currently considering legislation (HB 19-1113) to amend the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act in order to provide such authorities and to protect the public interest; and

WHEREAS, HB 19-1113 will eliminate the practice of corporate self-bonding in order to guarantee hardrock mine reclamation; and

WHEREAS, HB 19-1113 will increase the State's authority to require adequate financial assurances for water quality protection and treatment at permitted hardrock mines; and

WHEREAS, HB 19-1113 will prevent the creation of new hardrock mines that pollute water in perpetuity by requiring a defined endpoint for water treatment after closure.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of Ridgway, Colorado, hereby expresses its support of HB 19-1113 and urges the Colorado General Assembly to adopt the bill into law.

Introduced, Read, and Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2019.

Town of Ridgway, Colorado

John I. Clark
Mayor, Town of Ridgway

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk