

U.S. SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET

Member: Agriculture, HELP, and Finance Committees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bennet Statement on Silverton, San Juan County Votes to Pursue Superfund Designation

Washington, DC – Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet issued the following statement on today's votes by the Town of Silverton and the San Juan County Commission to ask the State of Colorado to request the Environmental Protection Agency establish a Superfund site to help clean up abandoned mines in the area. The Superfund designation would put the site on a National Priority List to provide resources to help clean up several dozen inactive mines that are leaking acid mine drainage into the local watersheds.

"Hundreds of abandoned mines in Colorado are polluting our waters, endangering the health of Coloradans, and holding back local economies. Cleaning up this pollution and protecting people in the region is a priority for Silverton and San Juan County, and we thank them for their engagement and work on this issue. A Superfund designation will help expedite the cleanup efforts. We will continue to work closely with local and state officials to ensure the community's remaining concerns about implementation are taken into consideration throughout this process. We will also push for funding as soon as possible to ensure that the cleanup proceeds quickly."