

Your Voice is Needed to Defend Clean Water!
2 ACTIONS NEEDED!

ACTION 1. TAKE ACTION NOW BY CALLING YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND ASKING THEM TO
VOTE YES ON HB 255.

HB 255 will strengthen NM Mining Act financial assurance requirements and eliminate a loophole that puts the State and Taxpayers in environmental and financial risk for cleanup at mines!

TO FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION [CLICK HERE](#)

CONTACT THEM NOW!
THIS MAY GO TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE TODAY



The Freeport-McMoRan Copper Mine in Grant County is an example of a close call as a result of the unreliability of corporate guarantees for financial assurance.

ACTION 2. TAKE ACTION NOW BY CONTACTING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND ASKING THEM TO VOTE YES ON HB 220.

**HB 220 will amend the Water Quality Act to clarify where compliance with water quality standards is determined. It would reverse the negative impacts of the Copper Mine Rule.
(HB 220 Will Be Heard in this Committee Next Week)**

House Judiciary Committee Members

Representative Gail Chasey, Chair, (D- Bernalillo)
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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 Christine Chandler (D-Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe)
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Representative Zachary J. Cook (R-Lincoln & Otero)
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Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil (D- Bernalillo)
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Representative Matthew McQueen (D-Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia)
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Representative Greg Nibert (R-Chaves & Lincoln)
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Representative William R. Rehm (R-Bernalillo)
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Representative James G. Townsend (R-Chaves, Eddy and Otero)
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More Information

[HB255](#) would phase out corporate guarantees from an affiliated corporation in Mining Act permits. This would close 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.

New Mexico already had a close call with Freeport-McMoRan serving as corporate guarantor when it failed the [Financial Soundness Test in 2015 - 2016](#).

\$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.

Another example of the need for HB 255: 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 in 2018](#) 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 again!](#)

As a resident of New Mexico your input has impact. Please join us to demand a safer New Mexico by asking our legislators to support HB255. Help us defend clean water and protect our communities, not polluters!

[HB 220](#) would amend the Water Quality Act to clarify where compliance with water quality standards is determined. The Current provision in the Water Quality Act is ambiguous, has led to confusion and litigation, and needs to be clarified. The bill would nullify those provisions of the Copper Mine Rule that allow copper mines to pollute groundwater above New Mexico Water Quality standards.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY!
Water is Life.