

## McDermott, Steve

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**Subject:** FW: SB 08-228-Ludwig

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**From:** Laine Ludwig  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010 5:55 PM  
**To:** Stanton, Irene  
**Subject:** SB 08-228

Dear Ms Stanton,

My home is Gunnison, and my main playground is the area around Crested Butte. I was born/raised on the front range and have lived in the Gunnison valley since 1993. I have long been mortified by the carte blanche boondoggle that is the Mining Law of 1872, and its impacts that are still felt all over the area. The reclamation of the Peanut Lake Mine and many others has been a long struggle. The town of Crested Butte has been trying for so many years to avoid having Mt. Emmons (a.k.a. "The Red Lady") become another example adding its toxins to our drinking water. I have seen pictures of the molybdenum mine in Questa, New Mexico, and spoken to ranchers who live on its borders. I have seen pictures of one rancher's cattle dying of molybdenitis and heard stories of the dust from the mine blowing right over the nearby school playground. I picture how close the Crested Butte School is (downwind, of course) to the proposed Lucky Jack Mine.

One of the most nefarious aspects of what has long been business-as-usual is the lack of communication with the public. Even if all the claims of the industry about mine safety were true, such communication would seem to be a no-brainer. But those claims are undermined (no pun intended) by their refusal to tell the public before they build a new mine tunnel as they begin mining operations on a mountain.

As moderate as it is, SB 08-228 is a start. I appeal to you, as the face of protection to public health, to ensure that these "rights to know" get built into the Hardrock Mining Rules. Imagine that a mining company retained the mineral rights under your home. Wouldn't you want to be alerted that they intended to dig an exploratory tunnel under your home? Wouldn't you want the right to appeal such plans? Well, Mt. Emmons is basically my home. The run-off of snowmelt from that mountain becomes part of the drinking water downstream in the Gunnison River. Carbon Creek, where tailings effluent is destined to eventually be dumped if this mine is developed, has its confluence with the Gunnison on the northern edge of town. Don't you think that our right to know of plans to compromise our water (and air) health should be protected by closing at least this one loophole in the Mining Law of 1872? Only then can we look to see what health consequences there may be. Only then can we submit input. Please do your part to provide us with a voice to monitor potential threats to the health of our children, grandchildren and theirs. I implore you to visualize how you would feel if they were YOUR grandkids.

Sincerely, Laine Ludwig