

Readers' Forum

Outsiders don't know what's best for Grant County's future

Dear editor,

I am writing in response to Ryan Flynn and John Zimmerman on the Copper Rule.

First, I support mining, but only when it is done responsibly. I made my living as a miner for about 38 years — 32 years at the Chino Mines open pit and another six years in underground mines at the Oswaldo and Groundhog mines. The clear cold water flowing under these underground mines is part of the water table, and springs come out at the lower levels of the Chino open pit. It is all interconnected.

Mining and other natural resources need to be harvested in a responsible way. Billion-dollar corporations have the right to generate profits, but what they don't have is the right to destroy and pollute our environment and groundwater.

I would think that investing a penny out of every dollar's profit is the right thing to do to ensure our future children's health and community's wellbeing.

Local, state and national leaders that we entrust with our voice and vote need to become aware of what they support. Because their children and grandchildren and future generations will be affected by what they choose to give support to.

For example, I am concerned that the Copper Rule negated the use of plastic liners for new mining units. It is just a matter of time before water supplies will be destroyed by heavy metals that millions of gallons of acid poured on the leach dumps will eventually leach into our county's water table.

NMED Secretary Ryan Flynn and Rep. John Zimmerman are the outsiders on the issue. They don't live here. They could care less about our communities after the mines are depleted and shut down, leaving behind worse contamination than the Colorado Gold King Mine.

Gov. Susana Martinez and NMED Secretary Flynn were protesting the EPA's handling of the Colorado Gold King Mine spill. In essence they are creating a very worse situation here in Grant County by their administration's Copper Rule. Their concern for corporate profits does not go well with destroying our local citizens' rights to keeping our drinking groundwater safe.

Call and thank Attorney General Hector Balderas and community groups (GRIP, Amigos Bravos, NM Environmental Law Center) for standing up for protecting our rights to clean water instead of corporate profits.

(s)Eduardo Arguello
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