

JAN 23 2004



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Senate Chamber  
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COMMITTEES  
Member of:  
Executive Committee  
Legislative Council

January 20, 2004

Summit County Board of Commissioners  
Commissioner Gary Lindstrom  
P.O. Box 68  
Breckenridge, CO 80424

RE: Cyanide Technologies

Dear Gary:

I recently learned that anti-mining activists have focused their efforts in Summit County to simply eliminate mining by banning the use of cyanide technologies. These same anti-mining activists have had little to no success in securing support in Colorado for either a ballot initiative that was filed in 2000 or enactment of any legislation. In fact, early last year, SB03-26 was introduced and killed in the Senate State Affairs Committee on a bi-partisan vote.

However, this has not stopped these activists from making misleading and exaggerated statements about Colorado's gold mining industry and Colorado's current statutes governing mining operations that use certain designated chemicals, such as cyanide, in their processing. I encourage you to not be misled by such statements and set such a negative precedent in Summit County for banning lawfully regulated business practices.

In 1993, under the leadership of Governor Romer and Ken Salazar, Director of Natural Resources, the Colorado General Assembly unanimously approved SB93-247 that re-wrote Colorado's hard rock mining statutes. The environmental community, mining interests, as well as state regulators supported this legislation and they are considered to be some of the most rigorous in the nation.

Please contact the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology in the Department of Natural Resources and get the facts on various conditions imposed under both the reclamation permits issued by the Mined Land Reclamation Board and the discharge permits issued by the Water Quality Control Division at the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Fitz-Gerald".

Joan Fitz-Gerald  
State Senator

