

**GRANT COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. R-13-16**

IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSED
COPPER RULE

WHEREAS, The New Mexico Environment Department has worked with governmental agencies, environmental groups and industry representatives to come up with the proposed copper mine rule that is currently in front of the Water Quality Control Commission; and

WHEREAS, the copper mining industry in 2011 had a direct and indirect economic impact on Grant County of \$150 million and \$326 million to the State of New Mexico for the same period; and

WHEREAS, the copper industry is currently operating with no clear guidelines for their operations on ground water protection; and

WHEREAS, the proposed copper mine rule imposes some of the strictest requirements on mining in the country, while still providing a balance between policies of protecting ground water and economic development.

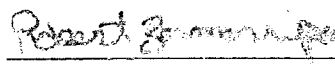
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION to support the efforts of the New Mexico Environment Department to take steps to protect the ground water with the Proposed Copper Mine Rule and recommend the Water Quality Control Commission adopt it. The Commission also authorizes the Chairman and County Manager to sign the attached letter to support the Proposed Copper Mine Rule.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of February, 2013.

Attest:



Brett Kasten, Commission Chairman



Robert Zamarripa
County Clerk



Gabriel Ramos, Commissioner District 1



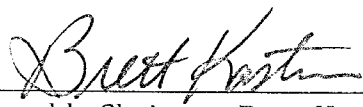
Ron Hall, Commissioner District 3

**SUPPORT FOR THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
PROPOSED COPPER RULE**

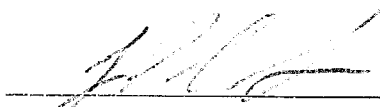
Concerned New Mexico Citizens:

As the leaders of the communities we represent in close proximity to copper mining in southwestern New Mexico, we would like to express our joint support for the New Mexico Environment Department's Proposed Copper Mine Rule. The Proposed Copper Mine Rule now up for consideration by the Water Quality Control Commission is a codification of current proven practices, it strikes the necessary balance between policies of protecting groundwater and fostering economic development in our local communities and represents the most stringent regulatory framework in the country. It is consistent, clear, and establishes reliable methods to protect groundwater around the vicinity of copper mining operations today and for years after operations cease, ultimately better protecting New Mexico's water resources. The proposed rule will provide a stable regulatory framework that will improve New Mexico's ability to attract new mining investments and create the crucial jobs that we depend on for our rural southwest New Mexico communities. We would like to thank all the impacted stakeholders from governmental agencies, academia, environmental groups and industry for participating in the development process. The result is a proposed rule that will set forth the most stringent and balanced regulatory framework in the country. We look forward to the Commission's adoption of the proposed rule.

LEADERSHIP SIGNATURES



Honorable Chairman Brett Kasten
Grant County, New Mexico



County Manager Jon P. Saari
Grant County, New Mexico