



Western Mining Alliance  
PO Box 33218  
Reno, NV 89532

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20500

14 December 2017

Dear President Trump;

The U.S. Supreme Court recently requested the views of the U.S. Solicitor General in a case with significant implications for federal land management. The case is *Rinehart v. California* (No. 16-970).

Your Solicitor General recently submitted a briefing in response to this call for views. The briefing is a serious blow to American mining and we ask your intervention to save small-scale mining and prospecting in the United States.

In the *Rinehart* case the state of California Supreme Court ruled the state may ban any type of mining, for any reason, which resulted in the ban of motorized equipment used in placer mining within 100 yards of any water body. The complete ban of the use of motors returns us to 1848 where miners scraped gold out of rivers using their fingers and a gold pan.

It is simply not feasible, nor warranted, for California to demand miners return to the pre-industrial age to further their radical environmental agenda. While we agree California may return themselves to the pre-industrial age, we don't agree this authority should extend to federal lands and federal mining claims.

We urge you to order a withdrawal of the briefing and a new briefing be submitted which will ask Supreme Court review. The author of the Solicitor General brief is a holdover from the previous administration and also authored a brief on behalf of the United States which supported California's position.

For 150 years miners have operated under the 1872 Mining Law (and subsequent legislation). The rights granted by Congress to prospect, locate and perfect a mining claim have been interpreted by the state of California to mean only a possessory interest in the mining claim and the state argues there is no right to mine that claim.

You have shown your support of mining and this is an opportunity to reverse a California Supreme Court ruling which held environmentalism is more important than mining and the state may prohibit activities on federal land.

We urge you to get involved in this case. It is the most important mining case to reach the steps of the Supreme Court in over 40 years.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CRAIG A. LINDSAY  
President, Western Mining Alliance