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PRESS RELEASE

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The Spokane Tribe of Indians supports meaningful reform of the 1872 mining law. Spokane Tribal Business Council Member, Matt Wynne says “the Tribe and its community members who live on the Spokane Indian Reservation have witnessed first-hand the devastation of a working mine and its affects to our community and environment.”

The outdated 1872 mining law has resulted in significant harm to tribal, cultural and natural resources across the western regions. The archaic law gives preference to mining over all other land uses, including the protection of water, wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and to the spiritual and cultural interests.

In September of 2007, the Spokane Tribe, as a member of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest, sponsored a resolution supporting the mining law reform bill that passed the House (H.R. 2262). The National Congress of American Indians organization echoed the support and work of the Spokane Tribe and ATNI to reform the 1872 mining law. Spokane Tribal Business Council Member, Glenn Ford says, “We encourage the Senate to use the principles in the House bill as the basis for any reform bill that is introduced in the Senate.”

The Spokane Tribal Business Council believes it’s time to bring this 19th century mining law into the 21st century, and to ensure that tribal interests are better protected.

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