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1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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August 17, 2015

The Honorable William F. Shuster
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

I would like to request that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee open an investigation and hold an oversight hearing regarding the recent spill of mining waste into the Animas River near Silverton, Colorado. It is unacceptable that 3 million gallons of waste were spilled into this sensitive system upon which so many Americans rely.

As you may know, the Animas River flows into the San Juan River and then the Colorado River. This drainage basin runs through six states and eventually reaches Mexico. The Navajo Nation, which I represent in Arizona's Congressional District One, was forced to declare a state of emergency and stop drawing water from the river.

Millions of people are dependent on this drainage basin for their drinking water and livelihood. I feel that it is our duty to investigate this matter fully, and I urge the committee to do so promptly.

Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress