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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
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Opening Statement of
The Honorable Mark Amodei
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing on
H.R. 2512, the Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act and
H.R. 3479, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011
December 13, 2011

Today we will discuss two bills HR 2512, the Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act, introduced by my colleague and fellow Nevadan, Joe Heck, and HR 3479, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2011 more specifically Title 1 – the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2011.’

Authorization for the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program’ expired two years ago, so this is an important next step in bringing this legislation to the floor.

The Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act has been in the works for several years now and I’m pleased that our committee is holding this legislative hearing to move the project forward.

The Three Kids Mine and Mill site was used to stockpile federally owned manganese nodules as recently as 2003. The proposed legislation takes a unique approach to clean up this historic abandoned mine site. I hope this will be the first of many other projects like it to address our nation’s abandoned mine lands.

In this case, the City of Henderson’s redevelopment council along with the State of Nevada is proposing to acquire the property from the Bureau of Land Management, cleaning up the site and redeveloping it. In the process they would assume all environmental liability from the federal government, take care of an environmental and physical hazard, and ultimately repurpose the area adding value to the community of Henderson. Rather than telling the whole story here I’ll let Mr. Heck and our witnesses, Mayor Andy Hafen and Mr. Barry Conaty provide the details.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today. I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Heck.