SAMPLE LETTER

To: mines/mining companies

From: not-for-profit NGOs, affected communities, labor groups, etc.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As you may know, the Initiative for Responsible Mining (IRMA) has released a collaboratively developed *Standard for Responsible Mining* ([responsiblemining.net/Standard](http://responsiblemining.net/Standard)). This certification scheme is the result of a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder process spanning ten years. It truly encapsulates the most innovative measures of responsible mining practices [**NOTE:** here you can note if your organization participated in the development of the Standard].

We write today to encourage you to engage in IRMA’s programs. It’s our belief this will increase your ability to communicate your performance – both areas of strength and also the challenges you face – with us and other communities in which you operate as you work toward continuing improvement in social and environmental responsibility. A first step to engage is a self-assessment tool available through IRMA, called the [Mine Measure](https://tools.responsiblemining.net/self-assess). This tool allows your company to explore IRMA’s Standard in a practical way, get a sense of how your mine(s) perform when measured against the Standard, and prepare for an independently verified audit. The Mine Measure self-assessment tool also allows you to provide feedback directly to IRMA on the metrics in the Standard so that they can improve, consider revisions, and better serve your interests as well as ours. Moving from self-assessment then to IRMA’s independent verification of achievement is important to us, increasing our confidence in that third-party assurance of achievement.

Engaging in the IRMA system allows mining companies to tell the world that they are making concrete commitments to socially and environmentally responsible mining in the context of a diverse, equitable stakeholder conversation. Your participation would be a concrete, demonstrable step in your commitment to protect our lands, waters, and labor rights. We look forward to discussing this further with you.

Sincerely,

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