SAMPLE LETTER

To: mine/mining company

From: NGOs, affected communities, labor groups, etc.

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

The Initiative for Responsible Mining (IRMA) is a multi-stakeholder coalition that brought leaders from diverse sectors together in 2006 to craft the world’s first shared definition of what it means to mine responsibly: the [IRMA *Standard for Responsible Mining*](https://responsiblemining.net/what-we-do/standard/) ([responsiblemining.net/Standard](http://responsiblemining.net/Standard)).

The IRMA Standard is the result of a comprehensive process spanning more than ten years, including a public consultation process incorporating 1,400 comments from more than 100 different individuals and organizations. It is the only standard for the mining sector that is equally governed by directly affected communities, NGOs, labor unions, mining companies, purchasing companies, and the investor and finance sector; covers all mined materials (apart from thermal coal, uranium, and deep seabed mining projects); includes the full range of environmental and social issues related to industrial scale mines; and has demonstrated credibility with civil society and labor unions.

We write today to encourage you to have your mines sites audited against the IRMA Standard using IRMA’s independent third-party audit system. It is our belief that engaging in the IRMA system will increase your ability to communicate your performance—your strengths and the challenges you face—with us and other communities in which you operate. Engagement will also support your work toward continuous improvement in social and environmental responsibility.

A first step to engage is to conduct a self-assessment using IRMA’s [Mine Measure](https://tools.responsiblemining.net/self-assess) tool (<https://tools.responsiblemining.net/self-assess>). This tool, which is free for your first use, allows your company to explore the IRMA Standard in a practical way, get a sense of how your mine(s) perform when measured against the Standard, and prepare for an independent third-party audit. The Mine Measure self-assessment tool also allows you to provide feedback directly to IRMA on the IRMA Standard so that they can improve, consider revisions, and better serve your interests as well as ours. Moving from self-assessment to IRMA’s independent third-party audits 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 adopt best practices in environmental and social performance, including a commitment to engage with stakeholders and rights holders. Your participation would be a concrete, demonstrable step in your commitment to protect our rights, the environment in which we live and work, and the legacy we will pass on to future generations. We look forward to discussing this with you.

Sincerely,

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