

Larson Bill

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**WESTERN SHOSHONE DEFENSE PROJECT
And seventh Generation
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

8th Session—New York City

Good Morning, Madame Chair and members of the Permanent Forum:

My name is Larson Bill from the Shoshone Nation in the United States. Today I would like to address this Forum and all Indigenous People around the world. Today we are facing an on going battle with all extractive industries on our lands. In Shoshone country the multi-national corporations have taken over the lands for gold. In 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued the United States recommendations to address the Human Rights violations to the Shoshone people. Since that period to now, there has not been any movement towards the continuing violations of the multi-national corporations of the United States and Canada.

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These same corporations operate in other lands of indigenous people world wide, causing the same problems and the destruction of Mother Earth. We call upon the Permanent Forum to urge the United States, Canada and other Trans-national corporations where ever they may come from to regulate their Trans-national corporations impacting communities outside their borders. And to make recommendations to the United States to amend the 1872 Mining Law, which does violate human rights to water, clean air, and lands. This law allows the on going destruction to people, cultures and traditional values. Mother Earth has suffered long enough from the impacts of modern day mining. The Western Shoshone people are being impacted in their sacred areas, their plant foods and medicine plants. We urge the United States and other countries that didn't sign the declaration for indigenous people's to honestly plan to engage in the problems why they haven't signed.

The declaration for international conference for extractive industries held in Manila on March 2009, expressed the concerns of indigenous peoples and their lands. The issues in this declaration concern all indigenous people, who are the caretakers and land owners. Every effort to address the extractive industries operations that violate the rights of indigenous people's, should be top priority for the Forum.

We urge the UN Human Rights Council to address the mining issues that indigenous peoples have been addressing here year after year. When the resources are gone the industries will be too, but the indigenous people and their lands will remain to clean up what was destroyed or contaminated.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this Forum and all indigenous people—Thank you.