# Greenpeace to Pentagon: Let's Not Mine the Deep Sea to Build More Bombs

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**Dateline: WASHINGTON** 

# **Body**

Greenpeace USA, an organization that says it uses protest and confrontation to expose environmental problems and promote solutions, issued the following news release:

In response to a group of former military and political leaders calling for the U.S. to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in an effort to spur the country's interest in deep-sea mining amid competition with China for critical minerals, Arlo Hemphill, Project Lead on Greenpeace USA's Oceans Are Life campaign, said: "Almost everyone agrees that the United States should ratify the Law of the Sea - it's a no-brainer and has been since the treaty was adopted over forty years ago. This might be the only thing that Greenpeace and Big Oil agree with each other on. Now, deep sea mining corporation The Metals Company has jumped on the bandwagon, hoping it will increase their chances of making it big after several costly failed ventures. With two dozen countries already on the record opposing the launch of Deep Sea Mining any time soon, there is little possibility it will be permitted."

The recent resolution adopted by the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) urging member countries not to engage in or support deep sea mining underscores the growing recognition of the risks associated with this industry. Moreover, numerous studies and reports have highlighted the economic folly of deep sea mining. Planet Tracker's recently published findings that this type of mining could result in over \$500 billion in value destruction, including the destruction of habitats that could lead to natural capital losses of at least \$465 billion and potential losses of \$132 billion to the mining industry, emphasize the significant environmental and financial risks associated with deep sea mining. Additionally, an Ocean Foundation report highlights the high uncertainty surrounding metal prices and the potential irrelevance of deep sea mining in a circular economy with next generation battery technologies that don't rely on deep-sea metals. The industry's unrealistic financial models and disregard for these challenges raise red flags about its viability and sustainability.

Hemphill continued: "After failing to persuade people that deep sea minerals are needed to fight climate change, these reckless opportunists turned their sights on the Pentagon. These former military and government officials who should know better have lent their names to a letter that supports the right thing for the wrong reasons. We don't need to ratify the Law of the Sea so we can mine one of the most important ecosystems that sustains life on our planet to make more missiles. Ratification gives the United States the legal standing to play a more active role in a number of important conversations about how we treat the ocean. A seat at the table at the International Seabed Authority, for example, gives us an opportunity to join the rapidly growing coalition of countries who believe this is

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not the time to allow such an unnecessary and dangerous industry to begin. Instead of succumbing to short-sighted interests the US should prioritize its responsibility towards extending protections for our oceans."

\* \* \*

Greenpeace USA is part of a global network of independent campaigning organizations that use peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future. Greenpeace USA is committed to transforming the country's unjust social, environmental, and economic systems from the ground up to address the climate crisis, advance racial justice, and build an economy that puts people first. Learn more at www.greenpeace.org/usa.

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Original text here: https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/greenpeace-to-pentagon-lets-not-mine-the-deep-sea-to-build-more-bombs/

[Category: Environment]

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## Classification

Language: ENGLISH

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Subject: MARINE MINING (91%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM (90%); INTERNATIONAL LAW (90%); LAW OF THE SEA (90%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); OCEANS (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (90%); WEAPONS & ARMS (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (89%); CIRCULAR ECONOMY (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); GREEN ECONOMY (78%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (78%); PRICES (78%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); ADMIRALTY LAW (77%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (77%); PRESS RELEASES (73%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (72%); PUBLIC OFFICIALS (72%); UNITED NATIONS (72%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (72%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (71%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (69%); METALS MARKETS (68%)

Company: SEA LTD (90%)

Organization: GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL (94%); GREENPEACE USA (93%)

Ticker: SE (NYSE) (90%)

## Greenpeace to Pentagon: Let's Not Mine the Deep Sea to Build More Bombs

Industry: NAICS519290 WEB SEARCH PORTALS AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES (90%); MARINE MINING (91%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); MINING & EXTRACTION (89%); CIRCULAR ECONOMY (79%); GREEN ECONOMY (78%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); ADMIRALTY LAW (77%); MINES & MINING (77%); METALS MARKETS (68%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (68%)

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United States: Grassley Votes For Government Funding

# **United States: Grassley Votes For Government Funding**

Mena Report

March 20, 2024 Wednesday

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# **Body**

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-lowa) released the following statement regarding passage of a government funding package containing six of 12 appropriations bills.

Our government is meant to be a service to the people, and thats simply not possible without the funds necessary to operate. Im confident this package will benefit lowans and our nation, while taking the fiscally appropriate approach to maintain last years discretionary spending levels. In particular, veterans, ag producers and rural residents will be better served thanks to the bills provisions, Grassley said.

Funding the government is a basic task that shouldnt take Congress five months into the Fiscal Year to figure out. Lurching from one deadline to the next is the wrong way to run Washington and ought to be avoided. Now, theres still more work to be done. We have six additional appropriations bills to pass in the coming weeks, and Congress must move those forward swiftly, Grassley concluded.

Grassley priorities authorized in this government funding package include:

Protecting veterans Second Amendment rights by requiring that veterans may only be added to the National Instant Criminal Background Check Systems (NICS) gun ban list when there is a judicial determination that the individual is a danger to themselves or others.

Preserving public safety measures by reauthorizing the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988, which bans the manufacture, sale or ownership of firearms capable of passing safety screenings undetected.

Fending off foreign ownership of farmland by enhancing the Department of Agricultures (USDA) role on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

Limiting wasteful USDA spending by requiring the Agriculture Secretary to send Congress a 15-day notice and detailed spending plan before transferring funds of \$100 million or more from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Boosting rural health care by extending Medicare programs that help protect care for rural residents.

Investing in rural infrastructure and waterways by increasing resources for rural bridge construction and repairs, as well as the development of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System serving Northwest Iowa.

Improving service at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by requiring the VA to report on its oversight of the veterans suicide hotline and mental health services, and to clear up backlogs for disability claims and benefits.

#### United States: Grassley Votes For Government Funding

Preventing weaponization of the Department of Justice (DOJ) by barring DOJ from using funds to investigate religious organizations or parents who peacefully protest at school board meetings.

## Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Web Publication

Journal Code: 193

Subject: APPROPRIATIONS (90%); SAFETY (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); WEAPONS & ARMS (90%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (89%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (89%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY REGULATION (87%); NEGATIVE NEWS (87%); FOREIGN INVESTMENT (86%); LEGISLATION (78%); MEDICARE (78%); SAFETY REGULATION & POLICY (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); VETERANS AFFAIRS (77%); AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (76%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (76%); VETERANS HEALTH CARE (76%); VETERANS LAW (76%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); SCHOOL BOARDS (73%); BACKGROUND CHECKS (72%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (72%); GUN CONTROL (72%); ILLEGAL WEAPONS (72%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (72%); RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS (72%); CRISIS COUNSELING & INTERVENTION (71%); FIREARMS (71%); RURAL DEVELOPMENT (71%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (69%); SAFETY, ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (66%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (64%); TALKS & MEETINGS (64%); COMMODITIES TRADING (63%); RURAL HEALTH (62%); EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (60%); MENTAL HEALTH (60%); MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE (50%); RELIGION (50%); SUICIDE (50%)

Industry: PRESS AGENCY RELEASES (90%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY REGULATION (87%); MEDICARE (78%); TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (78%); AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (76%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (76%); CANALS & WATERWAYS (72%); CRISIS COUNSELING & INTERVENTION (71%); FOREIGN OWNED REAL ESTATE (65%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (64%); COMMODITIES TRADING (63%); BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION (61%); EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (60%); MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE (50%)

Person: CHUCK GRASSLEY (79%)

Geographic: IOWA, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (93%)

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The Santa Fe New Mexican

March 21, 2024 Thursday

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Length: 1338 words

Byline: Carina Julig, cjulig@sfnewmexican.com

# **Body**

#### Global Santa Fe

A local organization's upcoming talk with an Israeli diplomat at a resort near Tesuque was canceled this week due to backlash from local pro-Palestinian organizations.

Global Santa Fe was scheduled to present Livia Link-Raviv, the Israeli consul general to the Southwestern U.S., on Tuesday at the Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe. Link-Raviv, based in Houston, represents Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This would have been her first visit to New Mexico since her appointment in 2021.

Global Santa Fe CEO Shawn McQueen said Four Seasons made the decision to cancel her talk because it did not feel it could guarantee the safety of speakers or attendees after both the resort and the organization received more than 100 phone calls and emails opposing the event.

The event cancellation - which has drawn outrage among many local people - was the second in as many months in the Santa Fe area due to opposition from groups critical of Israel amid the war in Gaza. Alternative rapper Matisyahu's concert, scheduled last month at Meow Wolf, was abruptly canceled after a surge of complaints about the show because of the artist's support for Israel. Meow Wolf said workers were concerned about their safety.

Similarly, a social media post from New Mexico Jews for a Free Palestine asked people to call the Four Seasons resort to complain about Link-Raviv's talk and provided several phone numbers.

"Link-Raviv represents a government actively committing genocide," the post said. "Her actions and speech are part of justifying these ongoing crimes against humanity."

The post continued, "We don't want racist hate and genocide apologia in our community, we want this to be a safe place for everyone!"

But harassing and even threatening phone calls from some people pushing for the cancellation raised safety concerns, McQueen said, noting a Four Seasons catering manager received a call on a personal cellphone and "felt quite harassed."

Only a couple of calls rose to the level of threatening, she added.

McQueen said her first priority was to keep people safe, but she felt "heartsick" the event was canceled.

There has been "extreme language" in the calls and emails Global Santa Fe has received, she said, with some people accusing the organization of being complicit with genocide and others accusing it of caving to "fascists."

Several people have canceled their membership with the group because they felt the organization failed to fulfill its mission.

McQueen said Global Santa Fe offered Link-Raviv the option to be interviewed in a secure location and have the talk broadcast over Zoom to anyone who wanted to listen, but she declined.

Global Santa Fe board member David Shulman, who had sponsored the event with his wife, said he thought it would be valuable for the community to hear Link-Raviv's point of view about the conflict in Gaza.

"Freedom of speech to me is a very important value, and it isn't only for the speaker, it's also for the listener," he said. "When you create a policy of harassment and intimidation to prevent somebody to speak, the entire community loses."

Teresa Davis, a member of New Mexico Jews for a Free Palestine, said an "alphabet soup" of organizations were involved in protesting the event, including Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine and the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine.

The Four Seasons' decision to cancel Link-Raviv's over security concerns was "a bit disappointing," she said. "We don't believe we pose a security threat. At the very most we had planned a very peaceful protest outside the doors of the event."

Davis said she was unaware of people calling workers' personal cellphones and was disturbed by what she described as "a real tendency lately to depict peaceful protest as potentially violent."

Her group is "very committed to dialogue" but does not think Link-Raviv is a good faith interlocutor, she said, adding, "We're not really interested in debating with someone who won't acknowledge the basic facts" of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The conflict in Gaza has been a hot-button issue in Santa Fe since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, with groups on both sides holding vigils and demonstrations. Several people have appeared at recent Santa Fe City Council meetings urging councilors to approve a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. Councilor Alma Castro said she has had such a resolution, co-sponsored by Councilor Pilar Faulkner, in the pipeline since Feb. 12 but does not know when it will be introduced.

McQueen said Castro had asked Global Santa Fe to cancel Link-Raviv's talk last week.

Castro said, however, she had reached out to McQueen to learn more about the event after hearing concerns about it from more than a dozen constituents.

"I suggested that this probably was a sensitive topic and it wasn't super helpful to go about it in a way that could appear as partisan," Castro said, and that it would be better to have "folks from both sides" on the stage.

"We don't want to limit the ability to have hard conversations. We just want to be respectful," Castro said.

Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber, who had criticized the cancellation of the Matisyahu concert, said he thought the cancellation of Link-Ravi's talk was an "unfortunate, missed opportunity" for the city.

Protests of Israeli policy in Gaza are "completely legitimate," he said, but Santa Fe should also be a place "where a responsible, respected member of the Israeli government could have a platform to both offer the Israeli point of view and then respond to tough questions."

Jewish leaders in the city had more pointed remarks.

Rabbi Neil Amswych of Temple Beth Shalom described the decision to cancel the talk as "intolerance under the guise of tolerance."

"Jews do not speak in one particular way, and nobody has a right to try to silence any kind of Jewish voice," he said. "If you disagree with somebody about an event, don't go to the event."

Since December, Amswych has been delivering a presentation called "The Israel-Hamas War: A Jewish View" to various local faith communities. Some venues have been contacted in advance by people trying to get the talk canceled - so far unsuccessfully, he said.

"The fact that people who don't even know what I'm going to say in my presentation, the fact that they try to pressure venues to get me not to speak, shows that this is a really disturbing, profound act of censorship," he said.

Organizations planning events should be more prepared for protests, Amswych added, questioning the level of the security risk. "Are people realistically going to storm the Four Seasons hotel and commit acts of violence against the speaker? No, I don't believe they are," he said.

Alonet Zarum Zandan, co-chairwoman of the Jewish Community Relations Coalition of New Mexico, said she was "profoundly sad that something like this happened again in Santa Fe."

Silencing Jewish and Israeli voices in Santa Fe is harmful to democracy, which thrives when civil discourse and conversations are able to occur, she added.

"I'm sickened by it," said Rabbi Berel Levertov of the Santa Fe Jewish Center.

Levertov described what he sees as a double standard in which pro-Gaza events are allowed to take place while pro-Israel events are protested or canceled.

"The good citizens of Santa Fe should not tolerate this," he said.

Link-Raviv said she had been looking forward to visiting Santa Fe.

"As Consul General, and particularly in sensitive times, one of my duties is to share knowledge and information, and that was the purpose of my participation in this encounter," she wrote in an email. "Despite the cancellation, I remain highly committed to continue cultivating the ties between Israel and New Mexico."

McQueen said Global Santa Fe needs time to reflect and figure out how it can continue its mission.

"We really are committed to making sure that we have a place for people that don't necessarily agree to have a dialogue," she said. "... But perhaps this just isn't a topic where folks could sit down [and talk], not now."

## Classification

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Company: FOUR SEASONS HOTELS INC (92%)

Industry: NAICS721110 HOTELS (EXCEPT CASINO HOTELS) & MOTELS (92%); SIC7011 HOTELS & MOTELS (92%); SPONSORSHIP (89%); MOBILE & CELLULAR TELEPHONES (68%); HIP HOP CULTURE (67%); SOCIAL MEDIA (65%); CATERING SERVICES (50%)

**Geographic:** SANTA FE, NM, USA (94%); HOUSTON, TX, USA (78%); NEW MEXICO, USA (95%); ARKANSAS, USA (79%); LOUISIANA, USA (79%); TEXAS, USA (79%); SOUTHWEST, USA (73%); ISRAEL (94%); STATE OF PALESTINE (93%)

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# **Body**

Mining companies and environmental groups are locked in a battle over a multibillion-dollar treasure trove of metals that lies at the bottom of our deepest oceans.

Now, a drama on the high seas is stoking the fight.

A mining company claims that Greenpeace activists disrupted a research expedition by boarding its vessel in the remote Pacific.

As a result of this action, the collective could be expelled from the UN body that oversees controversial plans to begin deep-sea mining.

Member countries of the UN's International Seabed Association could decide in the coming days to withdraw Greenpeace's observer status with the group.

Greenpeace claims that the incident in question was a peaceful protest aimed at protecting a pristine ecosystem. The mining company involved, The Metals Company, accuses Greenpeace of being "anti-science".

This is the latest episode in a long-running battle over access to a treasure hidden on the surface of the seabed.

Environmental advocates say the project will cause terrible damage to one of the few ecosystems on Earth untouched by man.

The metals the companies want to mine have accumulated over tens of millions of years in potato-sized balls known as polymetallic nodules.

The miners claim that the copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese they contain are crucial metals for making batteries.

The International Energy Agency estimates that demand for these metals will soar as the world moves toward a low-carbon economy.

Environmental activists say there are sufficient reserves of these metals on the earth's surface and that deep-sea mining should not be allowed until there is a much better understanding of the deep-sea environment and the impact mining will have on it.

Representatives from 167 countries will decide this week at a meeting of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) whether to take action against Greenpeace.

These latest international talks continue an effort to decide what rules should apply to companies that want to extract minerals from the abyssal plain, one of the deepest areas of the ocean. The ISA has said it aims to have standards in place by 2025.

#### Two visions of environmental care

#### Both mining companies and activists claim to be acting in defense of the planet.

The United States has never ratified the international treaty that created the ISA, so it plays no active role in the body.

This week, a group of influential U.S. political and military leaders, including Hillary Clinton, called on the U.S. to ratify, arguing that, given competition with China, access to seabed metals is crucial for the country.

The Metals Company says the research trip disrupted by Greenpeace in November was for scientific purposes and was intended to help improve knowledge of the effect nodule collection will have.

It adds that the work had been requested by ISA as part of an impact assessment and that **Greenpeace** deliberately obstructed that effort when its activists boarded the company's research vessel.

For its part, Greenpeace claims that the action was justified because The Metals Company has said it plans to go ahead with mining before regulations have been agreed.

## The Metals Company's project

The mining companies plan to use machines that are like huge vacuum cleaners to collect nodules from the seabed.

The highest concentration of nodules is found at depths between 4,000 and 6,000 meters.

They are found over much of the deep ocean floor.

The Metals Company plans to mine in an area of the Pacific Ocean known as Clarion-Clipperton.

For years it was assumed that very few species could live in these cold, dark, oxygen-poor depths.

Indeed, the density of living things is low, but research in recent decades has revealed **an enormous diversity of species, many of them new to science**.

But the abyssal plain is immense. It covers 40% of the Earth's surface. Land accounts for only 29%.

"I understand the cautious attitude of environmentalists," says Gerard Barron, CEO of The Metals Company, "but on this one they are wrong."

He acknowledges that the 75,000 km2 his company plans to mine is a huge area, but says it represents a tiny proportion of the seabed.

The Metals Company says its research shows that, although there will be damage in the area where mining takes place, the plumes of sediment that could smother deep-sea creatures will only travel a few kilometers.

Barron says the question should be, "Where can we get these metals with the least planetary and human impact?"

Greenpeace rejects the idea that deep sea mining could have any environmental benefit.

"Deep sea mining is not a climate solution," says the organization's oceans leader Louisa Casson. "I think it's clear that, to protect the climate, we need to restore our oceans, protect them, not destroy them further by adding new pressures."

Greenpeace argues that it was justified in disrupting The Metals Company's research because it was "science to tick the box by a company with a commercial interest in the results of that research."

"We must ask tough questions."

Twenty-four countries have said they support a suspension of seabed mining. They say licensing should wait until sufficient scientific evidence is available to assess the impact and develop rules to protect the deep oceans. A group of British scientists are currently studying the species of the eastern Pacific abyssal plain.

From the research vessel RRS James Cook, Adrian Glover of London's Natural History Museum told the BBC he supported the regulatory process set in motion by the UN.

"This is a new industry and we should be concerned and asking difficult questions," Glover said.

According to him, research to assess the risks of mining should continue. "There is always a risk with these things and **gathering data and evidence is the way to reduce that risk** to understand what it is, and then ultimately make a decision."

The big advantage the world has in deciding how to proceed with abyssal plain mining is that **regulation is being done before the industry has even started**, Glover said.

"It's up to the international process, the regulatory process, to critically evaluate the evidence ... and ultimately decide whether it's acceptable or not."

And remember, you can receive notifications. Download the latest version of our app and turn them on so you don't miss our best content.

- Norway's controversial decision, the world's first country to approve seabed mining
- The graphs that show the record warming of the oceans and its consequences for the planet

## Classification

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Subject: ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (92%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (91%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM (90%); MINING & ENVIRONMENT (90%); OCEANS (90%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (89%); MARINE MINING (89%); UNITED NATIONS (89%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (79%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); GREEN ECONOMY (78%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (78%); ADMIRALTY LAW (77%); LAW OF THE SEA (77%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (77%); INTERGOVERNMENTAL TALKS (76%); INTERNATIONAL LAW (76%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (76%); TALKS & MEETINGS (76%); LOW CARBON ECONOMY (73%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (60%); mundo (%)

Organization: GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL (94%); INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (54%)

Industry: MINES & MINING (91%); MINING & EXTRACTION (91%); MINING & ENVIRONMENT (90%); MARINE MINING (89%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (79%); GREEN ECONOMY (78%); ADMIRALTY LAW (77%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (73%); LOW CARBON ECONOMY (73%); BATTERIES (70%)

Person: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (50%)

Geographic: EARTH (92%); UNITED STATES (92%)

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