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February 17, 2011

Mr. Rick Thompson, Regional Land Manager
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Southcentral Region Land Office
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Subject: Girdwood 2020 Supports Proposed Finding of the Commissioner
Mineral Order 1121

Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of the referenced Proposed Finding of the Commissioner, Mineral Order 1121. Girdwood 2020 is a citizen's group that advocates for thoughtful resort, recreation and community development in the Girdwood Valley. We also advocate for the region's natural setting and the mountain gateway community lifestyle this area offers. Our organization realizes that a healthy community has a good economy, and to that end we support wise valley infrastructure as well as education and employment consistent with a mountain resort community. Our membership includes both Girdwood residents and non-resident property owners, and other interested parties, all committed to the area.

Girdwood 2020 recognizes the importance of mineral resources to the State of Alaska and the role mining played in the origins of our community, so we did not arrive at our position lightly. Natural resource revenues are the backbone of our State and we all enjoy the job and infrastructure benefits provided by mineral revenues. However, most of the Girdwood area has been under mineral closure for the past decade based on its potential for a recreation-based economy. During that time significant progress has been made towards the recreational development proposed in the Girdwood Area Plan completed in 1994.

The Girdwood Area Plan is the best guide for land use in this area. The plan recognizes the potential for a variety of recreational uses, and acknowledges that the area could eventually become a high quality four season development of international scope.

In its present configuration, the Girdwood area is an economic generator that provides activities to Alaska residents and visitors. Improvements of the past ten years include trail enhancement, a major overhaul of Alyeska Resort's ski and support facilities, and new biking and hiking venues. A public visitor center focusing on the Girdwood Valley's history has been opened at the top of the Alyeska Resort Tram.



Mr. Rick Thompson, Regional Land Manager
Alaska Division of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
February 17, 2011
Page Two

Under construction today is a major multi-use Nordic all season loop in the Girdwood upper valley. The first 5K is nearly completed and when opened will accommodate Nordic activities, hikers, bikers and other trail users, at all times of the year. When the full trail design is realized we expect it to attract more major winter events and visitors to Alaska.

The present owner of Alyeska Resort embraces the vision contemplated in the Girdwood Area Plan. In addition to many resort improvements, the owner is providing real estate opportunities that will enhance commercial and visitor related business in the area.

Over the past ten years, Girdwood 2020 has confirmed widespread support for the concept of four season recreation development in the area. Numerous statewide organizations, leaders and government agencies came together to sign a memorandum of understanding in support of the concept. We have conducted two independent surveys that found overwhelming support for recreational development among the residents of Girdwood and Anchorage. Furthermore, the State and Federal governments have funded significant infrastructure and road improvements that support the growth of the community and recreational development.

I say with certainty that this letter of support expresses the convictions of Girdwood 2020's membership that the portions of the Girdwood Valley now closed to mining activity should continue to be closed.

You may contact me for clarification and further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana Stone Livingston, Chair
Girdwood 2020
Email: dstoneliv@livingstonalaska.com
Phone: 907-351-5722



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February 6, 2012

The Hon. Cathy Giessel
The Hon. Bill Hawker
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska

Re: SB181 and HB285

Dear Senator Giessel and Representative Hawker;

As you both are aware, the Alaska Miners Association is a long established group dedicated to promoting the responsible development of Alaska's mineral resources. The Alaska Miners Association is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. The AMA is composed of more than 1400 individual prospectors, geologists and engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials. Our members live and work throughout the state.

We recently took up the questions that are addressed in your respective bills as identified above, regarding a mineral closure order in the Glacier and Winter Creek drainages in the Girdwood area. We are specifically appreciative of the process followed by DNR, in evaluating the proposed areas as to their mineral potential and other values. We support the closure orders and agree with the assessment that these lands are properly suitable for expansion of the recreation uses. We would note that should such use cease, we would like to see the closure orders reversed and the areas reopened to mineral development.

Again, we appreciate the chance to comment and support the effort to accomplish these particular withdrawals. Thanks to you both for all of the hard work and dedication you provide to the citizens of Alaska in your roles as legislators.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or need additional information.

Cordially,

Fred Parady
Executive Director