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A Communication From

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Sponsor Statement **HB 360**

“An Act enacting the Interstate Mining Compact and relating to the compact; relating to the Interstate Mining Commission; and providing for an effective date.”

This act authorizes the State to join and participate in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.

Alaska has a unique and important relationship with mining. It was the lure of gold that brought thousands of eager prospectors, and served as the founding purpose for many cities and communities. As the territory and later the State grew, zinc, lead, coal, sand, gravel, and other subsurface products all played roles in this all-important sector. Today, mining is Alaska's second-largest industry, and it continues to thrive.

Alaska's seven operating mines – Ft. Knox, Greens Creek, Kensington, Red Dog, Usibelli, Nixon Fork and Pogo – employ more than 2,000 people combined. The mining industry also creates public revenue by paying both state and local taxes. Interest in Alaska's mining potential continues to spur new exploration and investment in the subsurface minerals of the Last Frontier.

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission is a coalition of mining states that join together to represent the environmentally sound resource development interests of its members on a national level. Established in 1971, the IMCC recognizes the basic importance of the mining industry to the nation, and believes that the collective voice of mining states is an important aspect in preserving and advocating for states' rights. IMCC regularly serves as the spokesperson for mining states in Washington D.C., and works to represent the member states efficiently and articulately to executive agencies.

Mining was foundational to Alaska's statehood. It continues to be a major economic driver and will play an important role in the state's future. Joining the IMCC gives Alaska the opportunity to build on our successes, share what works with others, work together to build a better mining industry, and foster a better understanding and constructive relationship with the federal agencies. I urge your support of HB 360.