



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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.

Alaska's history is intertwined with mining, and it was the prospect of gold that served as the founding purpose for many cities and communities. As the territory and State grew, zinc, lead, coal, sand, gravel, and other subsurface products all played roles in this all-important sector. Today, mining is thriving as Alaska's second-largest industry.

Alaska hosts seven operating mines – Ft. Knox, Greens Creek, Kensington, Red Dog, Usibelli, Nixon Fork and Pogo – that together employ more than 2,000 people combined. 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 (IMCC) is an ideal coalition of mining states joined together to represent the environmentally sound resource development interests of its members on a national level. The IMCC recognizes the basic importance of the mining industry to the nation. We believe 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 a vital presence even before 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. The Alaska Miners Association strongly urges support for this bill and for the State of Alaska to take her rightful place with her peers amongst the mining states, so as to proactively strengthen our voice in the national debate regarding mining in our great state.

In closing, we wish to thank and acknowledge Senator Cathy Giessel's vital role in initiating this legislation and bringing it through the legislative process. Alaska herself and her core mining industry as well are the beneficiaries of her thoughtful approach to mining issues of the day, and creating the opportunity to strengthen Alaska's voice on the national stage is a prime example of her forward thinking.

Sincerely,

Fred Parady
Executive Director