



# ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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January 29, 2013

Senator Fred Dyson, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Dyson:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express its support for SB1, an Act establishing May 10 each year as Alaska Mining Day.

AMA is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

May 10, 1872 brought the approval of the General Mining Act of the United States, which governs mineral activity on federally owned lands in the nation. This law gave citizens, after the appropriate discovery and permit acquisition, the right to explore and develop mineral deposits on public lands.

Alaska's history, and in fact, our present, is deeply rooted in mining. Discoveries of gold caused several of our state's communities such as Fairbanks, Juneau, and Nome to exist today. Alaska is generally associated with the 1800's mining boom: The Gold Rush and North to Alaska are common terminology, and the stories behind them are taught in history classes around the nation. Discoveries of gold statewide and the Kennecott copper discovery in the early 1900s brought families to Alaska, infrastructure to new areas, and gave reason for the land to become a U.S. Territory.

Today mining is Alaska's second largest industry, with seven large-scale producing mines, hundreds of placer mines, and numerous exploration projects around the state. Our mines employ over 5,000 people directly and pay a total of \$650 million in payroll each year. Mining pays millions in revenues to local governments, the state government through rents, royalties, and taxes, and Alaska Native Corporations.

Building on its legacy past and exciting present, Alaska's mining industry is poised to have an even better future. To recognize the contributions by the mining industry to the State of Alaska and its people, we urge the committee to move SB1 and further encourage its approval.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deantha Crockett  
Executive Director