

Mining Day

Effective Date: Tuesday, May 10th, 2011

WHEREAS, mining was the primary driving force for early development of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, many communities across Alaska were initially established to support the mining industry. Today, Alaska has six large mines and approximately 200 small family placer mines and 120 gravel and quarry mines currently in production, employing individuals from over 120 communities across our state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's mining industry includes exploration, mine development, and mineral production. Alaska's mines are currently producing zinc, lead, gold, platinum, silver, and coal, in addition to construction materials such as gravel, rock, and sand; and

WHEREAS, the mining industry has demonstrated its ability to provide wide-ranging employment opportunities and to help advance and diversify Alaska's economic development for both urban and rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, mining is a high tech industry that requires professionals from a range of engineering, scientific, environmental, and equipment operating disciplines, who are dedicated to the responsible development of Alaska's resources while often enduring difficult working conditions; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is by far the most under-explored state for mineral deposits and is considered highly prospective with regard to strategic and critical minerals needed for domestic use, including Rare Earth Elements (REEs). We have the promising opportunity to produce REE's to meet the United States' technological demands and decrease our dependence on foreign sources of REE's; and

WHEREAS, May 10th is an important day for Alaska as it marks the day the General Mining Law of 1872 was adopted, which encouraged mining settlement in the West and offered incentives for the exploration and development of mineral resources on public domain. Since then, Alaska has responsibly developed vast quantities of mineral resources on our public domain, and untold reserves still remain untapped.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 10, 2011 as:

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in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to recognize the importance of mining in the founding and early development of Alaska's history, and to appreciate the efforts of all Alaskans involved in the mining industry today.

Dated: April 14, 2011