



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9229 www.alaskaminers.org

January 28, 2013

Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Dyson:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express its support for SB2, an Act that would allow Alaska to join the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) as a full member.

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.

Alaska's history is deeply rooted in mining; the prospect of gold is why several of our communities today exist in the first place. Mining is now Alaska's second largest industry, with seven large-scale producing mines, hundreds of placer mines, and numerous exploration projects around the state.

The IMCC, a coalition of mining states joined to promote environmentally responsible resource development, is an ideal fit for Alaska. The IMCC recognizes the importance of mining nationwide and brings a collective voice in preserving and advocating for states' rights. The IMCC speaks for its member states in Washington D.C., an element that is critical given our distant location.

Full membership in the IMCC will provide our resource and permitting agencies with access to a network of peers and exchange information on best practices, regulations, reclamation, and more; and apply that information to better Alaska and the mining industry.

AMA understands that several western states are currently contemplating membership in the IMCC. By being one of the first western states to join as a full member, Alaska can show true leadership in its efforts to responsibly develop of our mineral resources.

Fully joining the IMCC will give Alaska the opportunity to build on our successes and partner with other states to build a better mining industry nationwide. Therefore, we urge the committee to move SB2 in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director



Council of
Alaska Producers

**Comments on SB2: Interstate Mining Compact and
Commission**

January 18, 2013

Senator Cathy Giessel
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) would like to thank you for introducing SB2, the bill that would allow Alaska to join the Interstate Mining Compact and Commission (IMCC) as a full member.

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. The Council brings together mining companies with interest in Alaska to represent and inform members on legislative and regulatory issues, to support and advance the mining industry, to provide education to members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and to promote economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

The Council fully supports SB2 and we believe that full membership within the IMCC will solidify the State as a leader in permitting and regulation of the mining industry.

CAP has always supported a permitting and regulatory process that is rigorous, science based, transparent, and predictable. We believe Alaska is a leader in this arena, however as mining technologies advance and our understanding of the environment continues to grow, our permitting agencies must continue to learn and adapt as well.

Full membership within the IMCC will allow our resource agencies to have a dedicated forum to collaborate with their peers in other mining states. Within the IMCC they will be able to freely exchange information and best practice in regard to permitting, regulatory and reclamation issues and be able to apply these lessons learned to Alaska.

Historically the IMCC has consisted mainly of coal producing states in the eastern and southern portions of the country. With the resurgence of interest in metal mining throughout the west, including Alaska, it is important that the western states become part of the IMCC to ensure they are part of the collective discussion on issues raised by the development of mining opportunities. By being one of the first western states to join as a full member, Alaska can show true leadership in its efforts to responsibly develop our mineral resources.



Council of
Alaska Producers

Finally, CAP supports this bill as it allows us to join in with other mining states in working with the federal government on state primacy of permitting and regulatory issues. This is best supported by the following statement from the IMCC website:

"The IMCC was founded on the premise that the mining industry is one of the most basic and important to the Nation. Our manufacturing activities, transportation systems, and the comfort of our homes depend on the products of mining. At the same time, it is essential that an appropriate balance be struck between the need for minerals and the protection of the environment. We recognize that individual states have the power to establish and maintain programs of land and other resource development, restoration and regulation appropriate to cope with the surface effects of mining. The IMCC would not shift responsibility for such programs. On the other hand, our member states believe a united position in dealing with the federal government affords us a decided advantage. Our commission feels strongly that the collective voice of many is important in our efforts to preserve and advocate states' rights."

We thank you again for introducing this legislation and we look forward to supporting it through the committee process in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Michael Satre
Executive Director
Council of Alaska Producers
PO Box 33499
Juneau, Alaska 99803
907-957-2149

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel:

This letter is in support of SB No. 2 relating to full Alaska membership in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. I have been part of the minerals industry in Alaska since 1969 and am and have been employed by the University of Alaska system to train and assist the Alaska minerals industry for the past 44 years. I have attended many governmental (federal) meetings around the country and tried to explain why the regulations they are considering might not even be possible to meet in Alaska. I find even after 40 years, there is little appreciation for Alaska and our economic and employment interests at that level.

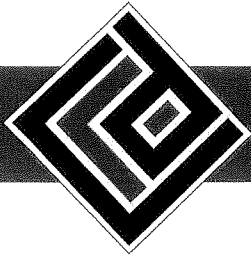
The IMCC is the one forum where states with mineral interests can share experience, discuss issues with policy makers, devise strategies and enter into compacts that have a very real and positive effect on our mines and their employees. It is especially important to states with a strong metals mining interest. The oil is running out and even with potential large discoveries, it will be at least 15 years before the state can realize revenue from those discoveries. I believe we need some means to combat the large-scale unemployment in parts of the state and to replace the potential loss of the high paying oilfield jobs. I worked with the Kensington mine for over 25 years before it was able to employ over 300 Alaskans, many of whom I trained and many of whom came from regions of desperate economic conditions. We cannot run a state with that kind of timeline. IMCC might well have helped had we had a voice.

The Interstate Mining Compact organization works and works well. I thank you for your continued support and attempts to get us full membership. It is important, and in my professional opinion essential to our state's overall economic welfare.

Sincerely,

Dennis Steffy
Director, Mining and Petroleum Training Service
The University of Alaska Statewide System of Higher Education
Steffy Building
College Road
Soldotna, AK 99669

Sent electronically without signature



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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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February 7, 2013

The Honorable Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 2 - An Act enacting the Interstate Mining Compact and relating to the compact; relating to the Interstate Mining Commission.

Dear Senator Dyson:

The Resource Development Council is writing in support of SB 2, an act that will allow the State of Alaska to join the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) as a full member.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Historically, mining has been a cornerstone of Alaska's economy. Many roads, docks and other infrastructure throughout Alaska were originally constructed to serve the mining industry. Alaska should encourage a viable mining industry that will continue to help diversify our economy and improve infrastructure statewide.

In joining the IMCC, Alaska could show leadership in advocating for a healthy and stable permitting and regulatory system. The IMCC is a commission of states aligned to promote environmentally responsible resource development. Alaska can gain the experience of best practices from other member states to ensure an effective regulatory system. The IMCC recognizes the importance of mining nationwide and brings a collective voice to Washington D.C., advocating for states' rights.

Furthermore, joining the IMCC as a full member will allow Alaska to benefit in many ways, including partnering with other states on federal issues, and building on successes that will promote the mining industry in Alaska and nationwide.

Senator Dyson, RE: SB2

February 7, 2013

RDC urges you to move SB 2 from the State Affairs Committee in a timely manner, and thanks you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Rogers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Rogers
Executive Director

CC: Senator Giesell, SB2 Sponsor