



The Honorable Lesil McGuire
Chair
Senate Rules Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Building
120 Fourth Street, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #8

Dear Senator McGuire:

Thank you for sponsoring SJR 8. We applaud your efforts to recognize the significance of rare earth elements in Alaska and their importance to the United States. Rare earth elements are necessary for applications related to national defense, clean energy and the manufacture of other high tech consumer and industrial products. The rare earth deposits in Alaska containing these critical elements are some of the richest resources in North America, particularly the resource at Bokan Mountain on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska.

There are unique aspects to the Bokan Mountain project. The deposit's proximity to a deep water port, prospective power source, available labor and its skew towards the scarcer heavy rare earth elements make this project unique among its peers. Mine production will bring new career opportunities for residents and an increase in local business activity that will occur during construction and throughout years of operation.

As supply of rare earth elements from China is subject to interruption, Alaska is poised to become a major participant as a producer of these strategic materials. Ucore offers its support of this important resolution that recognizes Alaska's contribution.

We welcome the opportunity to work together with the State of Alaska to move toward rare earth element production in Alaska.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. McKenzie", written over a faint circular watermark or background.

James McKenzie
President & CEO
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