



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 26, 2013

Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Feige and Representative Saddler:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express its support for HB99, an Act to extend the Alaska Minerals Commission by ten years, until 2024.

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.

AMA strongly supports HB99 and believes the Alaska Minerals Commission, comprised of leaders in the mining industry, fills a valuable role in educating lawmakers on how to responsibly develop the vast mineral deposits in our state. This group is diverse in geographic location as well as area of expertise, and is able to independently advise the Legislature and Governor on ways to eliminate barriers on mineral development in Alaska. We encourage you to review the list of the Commission's accomplishments reflected in the letter submitted by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

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 provide approximately 5,000 direct jobs, the average wage of which is \$100,000, with a total payroll of \$650 million each year. Mining pays millions in revenues to local governments, the state government through rents, royalties, and taxes, and Alaska Native Corporations. It is important to realize the contributions of the mining industry in Alaska as well as enact laws that promote its growth. AMA believes HB99 does just that.

AMA thanks this committee for its support of the mining industry in Alaska and encourages you to pass this bill in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director