



ALASKA MINERS
ASSOCIATION

121 W. FIREWEED SUITE 120 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | 99503 | 907.563.9229 | ALASKAMINERS.ORG

March 15, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HJR9 Canadian Mines on Transboundary Rivers

Dear Representative Stutes:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express comment on HJR9, "Urging the United States government to continue to work with the government of Canada to investigate the long-term, region-wide downstream effects of proposed and existing industrial development and to develop measures to ensure that state resources are not harmed by upstream development in British Columbia."

AMA is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

Beginning in early 2015, Governor Walker appointed Lt. Governor Mallott to lead collaboration and stakeholder engagement between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia regarding mining development on rivers the two jurisdictions share. This dialogue has resulted in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Statement of Cooperation (SOC) agreed upon by both the State and Province, and technical work has already begun to further this collaboration. The State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia are responsible for the management of resources in their jurisdictions, therefore, management by these entities is far more appropriate, and effective, than federal involvement as HJR9 urges. Staff at Alaska's regulatory agencies at the Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, and Environmental Conservation have extensive technical expertise and familiarity with our environment, waters, fish, and wildlife. The Legislature should support their regulatory mission, and the efforts on behalf of the Lt. Governor, rather than encouraging federal intervention and potentially compromising the cooperative relationship formalized in the Alaska/British Columbia agreements.

We urge your Committee to amend this resolution to support the State of Alaska's efforts to protect state resources through continued collaboration with the Province of British Columbia through the terms of the MOU and SOC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director