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February 19, 2020

Representative Grier Hopkins  
State Capitol Room 409  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB232, An Act relating to a municipal air quality improvement tax credit; and relating to a municipal energy efficient new construction tax credit

Dear Representative Hopkins:

The Alaska Miners Association would like to thank you for introducing HB232 and writes to comment in support of the bill.

AMA is a professional membership trade 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, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

While Interior Alaska pays some of the highest energy costs in the nation, the community also grapples with meeting air quality standards. Your approach in HB 232 focuses on alleviating the impacts from both of these challenges through incentives, not punishments. HB 232 encourages investment in improvements which could result in increased energy efficiency and improve local air quality. Additionally, the bill allows local governments to offer tax credits for new construction for targeting overall energy efficiency.

AMA supports your "local solutions to local challenges" approach in HB 232 and encourages the passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Deantha Crockett  
Executive Director