



March 12, 2020

The Honorable Bert Stedman
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

The Honorable Natasha von Imhof
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Support of SB 155 Exploration and Mining Rights; Annual Labor

Dear Co-Chair Bert Stedman, Co-Chair Natasha von Imhof, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Alaska Chamber writes in support of SB155.

Founded in 1953, the Alaska Chamber is dedicated to improving the business climate in our state. The Chamber represents hundreds of small and large businesses across the state that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. SB 155 will improve the effectiveness of the notoriously vague legislative hurdles Alaskan miners currently jump through. This bill is a product of many years of work between the mining industry and the state to resolve issues with the Department of Natural Resources, or competing claimants, that arise about what is required to maintain mining claims. Under the current system, Alaska miners have faced significant problems, to include loss of land tenure, by simply making a clerical error relating to affidavits of labor and qualifications requirements.

SB 155 solves issues with the types of entities that can hold claims and cures any existing defects, puts labor affidavit requirements clearly in statute, provides more certainty to state claims conversion, updates lists of qualifying work to further claims, and clarifies that cash payments can be made for no more than five consecutive years, ensuring an attempt is made to develop the claim. Most importantly, this legislation provides for the Department of Natural Resources to send a notice of an opportunity to solve clerical errors prior to receiving notices of abandonment.



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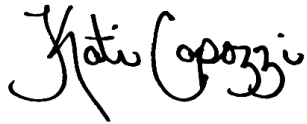


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Vague laws and regulations that do not clearly define what is required to maintain mining claims is a disadvantage to our Alaska miners that produce the minerals essential for our basic industries, technology and the products made here in America.

In summary, the Alaska Chamber support SB 155, and thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kati Capozzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO