March 11, 2020

Senator Bishop:

On behalf of the membership of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance (the Alliance), we submit this letter in support of SB 155- An Act Relation to Mineral and Exploration Rights.

The Alliance is a nonprofit trade organization comprised of more than 500 members who combined employ more than 25,000 Alaskans in jobs serving the oil, gas, and mining industries. With chapters in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kenai, our mission is to advocate for safe, environmentally responsible development of Alaska's oil, gas and mineral resources for the benefit of all Alaskans.

We are aware that there are miners who have spent thousands of dollars attempting to resolve issues with DNR or competing claimants that arise due to vague laws and regulations about what is required to maintain mining claims. Tragically, some have even lost their state mining claims by simply making a minor mistake or clerical error on forms or from confusion and different interpretations of the law.
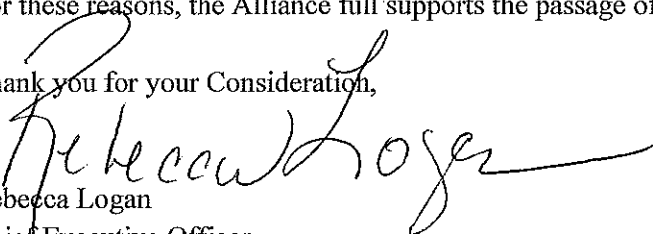
The state and the industry have spent years trying to resolve these issues and SB155 is a product of that collaboration.

SB 155 solves issues with the types of entities that can hold claims and cures any existing defects, clarifies the claims staking concepts known as MTRSC locations, 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 DNR to send a notice of an opportunity to cure clerical errors prior to receiving notices of abandonment.

SB155 does not impose any burden on the Department of Natural Resources, and it does not regulate the environmental aspects of mining.

For these reasons, the Alliance full supports the passage of SB 155.

Thank you for your Consideration,

Rebecca Logan
Chief Executive Officer
Alaska Support Industry Alliance