



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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January 28, 2013

Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Dyson:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express its support for SB2, an Act that would allow Alaska to join the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) as a full member.

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.

Alaska's history is deeply rooted in mining; the prospect of gold is why several of our communities today exist in the first place. Mining is now Alaska's second largest industry, with seven large-scale producing mines, hundreds of placer mines, and numerous exploration projects around the state.

The IMCC, a coalition of mining states joined to promote environmentally responsible resource development, is an ideal fit for Alaska. The IMCC recognizes the importance of mining nationwide and brings a collective voice in preserving and advocating for states' rights. The IMCC speaks for its member states in Washington D.C., an element that is critical given our distant location.

Full membership in the IMCC will provide our resource and permitting agencies with access to a network of peers and exchange information on best practices, regulations, reclamation, and more; and apply that information to better Alaska and the mining industry.

AMA understands that several western states are currently contemplating membership in the IMCC. By being one of the first western states to join as a full member, Alaska can show true leadership in its efforts to responsibly develop of our mineral resources.

Fully joining the IMCC will give Alaska the opportunity to build on our successes and partner with other states to build a better mining industry nationwide. Therefore, we urge the committee to move SB2 in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director