



## Comments on SB2: Interstate Mining Compact and Commission

### Council of Alaska Producers

January 18, 2013

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) would like to thank you for introducing SB2, the bill that would allow Alaska to join the Interstate Mining Compact and Commission (IMCC) as a full member.

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. The Council brings together mining companies with interest in Alaska to represent and inform members on legislative and regulatory issues, to support and advance the mining industry, to provide education to members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and to promote economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

The Council fully supports SB2 and we believe that full membership within the IMCC will solidify the State as a leader in permitting and regulation of the mining industry.

CAP has always supported a permitting and regulatory process that is rigorous, science based, transparent, and predictable. We believe Alaska is a leader in this arena, however as mining technologies advance and our understanding of the environment continues to grow, our permitting agencies must continue to learn and adapt as well.

Full membership within the IMCC will allow our resource agencies to have a dedicated forum to collaborate with their peers in other mining states. Within the IMCC they will be able to freely exchange information and best practice in regard to permitting, regulatory and reclamation issues and be able to apply these lessons learned to Alaska.

Historically the IMCC has consisted mainly of coal producing states in the eastern and southern portions of the country. With the resurgence of interest in metal mining throughout the west, including Alaska, it is important that the western states become part of the IMCC to ensure they are part of the collective discussion on issues raised by the development of mining opportunities. 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 our mineral resources.



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Finally, CAP supports this bill as it allows us to join in with other mining states in working with the federal government on state primacy of permitting and regulatory issues. This is best supported by the following statement from the IMCC website:

*"The IMCC was founded on the premise that the mining industry is one of the most basic and important to the Nation. Our manufacturing activities, transportation systems, and the comfort of our homes depend on the products of mining. At the same time, it is essential that an appropriate balance be struck between the need for minerals and the protection of the environment. We recognize that individual states have the power to establish and maintain programs of land and other resource development, restoration and regulation appropriate to cope with the surface effects of mining. The IMCC would not shift responsibility for such programs. On the other hand, our member states believe a united position in dealing with the federal government affords us a decided advantage. Our commission feels strongly that the collective voice of many is important in our efforts to preserve and advocate states' rights."*

We thank you again for introducing this legislation and we look forward to supporting it through the committee process in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

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