

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel:

This letter is in support of SB No. 2 relating to full Alaska membership in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. I have been part of the minerals industry in Alaska since 1969 and am and have been employed by the University of Alaska system to train and assist the Alaska minerals industry for the past 44 years. I have attended many governmental (federal) meetings around the country and tried to explain why the regulations they are considering might not even be possible to meet in Alaska. I find even after 40 years, there is little appreciation for Alaska and our economic and employment interests at that level.

The IMCC is the one forum where states with mineral interests can share experience, discuss issues with policy makers, devise strategies and enter into compacts that have a very real and positive effect on our mines and their employees. It is especially important to states with a strong metals mining interest. The oil is running out and even with potential large discoveries, it will be at least 15 years before the state can realize revenue from those discoveries. I believe we need some means to combat the large-scale unemployment in parts of the state and to replace the potential loss of the high paying oilfield jobs. I worked with the Kensington mine for over 25 years before it was able to employ over 300 Alaskans, many of whom I trained and many of whom came from regions of desperate economic conditions. We cannot run a state with that kind of timeline. IMCC might well have helped had we had a voice.

The Interstate Mining Compact organization works and works well. I thank you for your continued support and attempts to get us full membership. It is important, and in my professional opinion essential to our state's overall economic welfare.

Sincerely,

Dennis Steffy
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Sent electronically without signature