



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 6, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Miners Association writes to express its support for Senate Joint Resolution 16, urging the Federal Government to stop providing funding, through federal agencies, to nongovernmental organizations that oppose the development of Alaska's resources.

The Alaska Miners Association (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.

Upon being admitted to the United States, Congress recognized that while having a small population, Alaska was rich with natural resources. They realized that the state had the ability to sustain itself through the development of those resources by making them "available for maximum use consistent with the public interest." Today, lawmakers have the responsibility to implement measures that responsibly develop our natural resources: ensuring Alaska has a diverse, vibrant economy while protecting the environment, wildlife, and human health.

Despite the superb management of Alaska's natural resources, there are multiple organizations and individuals who adamantly oppose natural resource development in Alaska; choosing to ignore science and employ exaggerated, disingenuous campaigns to publicize their opposition. AMA does not believe these organizations should be funded by federal government agencies and taxpayer dollars. Therefore, we urge the passage of SJR16 to encourage the federal government to not fund them.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and protecting Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director