

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Session:

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER

Sponsor Statement HB 135

“An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area.”

House Bill 135 is legislation to correct errors made in 1997 which resulted in a section of the Petersville area remaining closed to recreational mining while two adjoining sections were opened. It was not the intent to keep this area closed but the language remains in place.

HB 135 gives the Department of Natural Resources the necessary language to negotiate with the federal Bureau of Land Management for transfer of the referenced southern region to the state. Once that transfer is complete the region can be opened to recreational mining with state oversight.

Your support of HB 135 will establish a clear definition of the specific areas to be freed up. It opens the door to transfer land from the feds, and adds approximately 200 acres of Alaska for resource development.

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