



March 25, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Olson
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 124
Juneau, Alaska
99801

Dear Representative Olson:

RE: CS HB74 (L&C)

On behalf of Heatherdale Resources, a mining company working on the Niblack Project in Southeast Alaska, I am writing in support of the House Labor and Commerce Committee's Substitute for HB 74. This Committee Substitute is a bill that grants the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) statutory authority to provide development project financing for infrastructure projects such as those that could support and expand the mining industry in Alaska.

Heatherdale is working diligently to advance the Niblack Project on Prince of Wales Island, a project which could bring significant jobs and economic development opportunities to Southern Southeast Alaska. We have explored various options for location of mill and associated tailings facilities, and are currently evaluating the suitability of the Gravina Island Industrial Site in Ketchikan for these facilities. Once we reach a development decision, Heatherdale believes that the project financing tools made available in CS HB 74 (L&C) could be of substantial benefit to the project and to the local economy. If ADIEA were to structure a finance package for a project like this, it would serve to diversify the regional economy and create much-needed new jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Smith
President CEO

Cc: House Labor & Commerce Committee

