

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate Bill 2 Interstate Mining Compact Commission

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 2 authorizes the State of Alaska to join and participate in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission is a coalition of mining states that joins together to represent the environmentally sound resource development interests of its members on a national level. Established in 1971, the IMCC recognizes the basic importance of the mining industry to the nation and believes that the collective voice of mining states is imperative to preserving and advocating for states' rights. IMCC regularly serves as the spokesperson for mining states in Washington D.C. and works to represent the member states efficiently and articulately to executive agencies.

Alaska has a unique and important relationship with mining. It was the lure of gold that brought thousands of eager prospectors to the state and mining served as the founding purpose for many cities and communities. As the territory and later the State grew, zinc, lead, coal, sand, gravel and other subsurface products all played roles in this all-important sector. Today, mining is Alaska's second largest industry and it continues to thrive.

Alaska's seven operating mines – Ft. Knox, Greens Creek, Kensington, Red Dog, Usibelli, Nixon Fork and Pogo – employ more than 2,000 people combined. The mining industry also creates public revenue by paying both state and local taxes. Interest in Alaska's mining potential continues to spur new exploration and investment in the subsurface minerals of the Last Frontier.

Mining was foundational to Alaska's statehood. It continues to be a major economic driver and will play an important role in the state's future. Joining the IMCC gives Alaska the opportunity to share our successes with others and work together to build a better mining industry. Alaska will benefit from joining forces with other states to foster a better understanding and constructive relationship with the federal agencies.

I urge your support of SB 2.