



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 110800
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0800
Main: 907.465.2500
Programs fax: 907.465.5442

February 11, 2013

Representative Dan Saddler
State Capitol Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Saddler,

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 99 to reauthorize the Alaska Minerals Commission until 2024. The Legislature established the Alaska Minerals Commission (Commission) in 1986. The Commission recommends to the Governor and the Legislature ways to mitigate constraints, including governmental constraints, on the development of minerals.

The Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House appoint Commission members. Current membership is representative of placer, hard rock, and coal mining industries from diverse areas of the state. In addition, at least one member appointed by the Governor must reside in a rural community. The Commission holds public meetings in Fairbanks and Anchorage to develop recommendations for their annual report.

Recommendations have ranged from those that come from family-owned placer mines to recommendations impacting international mining operations. A sampling of successful Commission recommendations includes:

- Infrastructure development under the Roads to Resources program
- Streamlining the state permitting process
- Intervention in the Kensington wetlands lawsuit
- Transfer of the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) authority from Environmental Protection Agency to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Accelerated conveyance of state land entitlement in accordance with the Statehood Act
- Re-establishment and staffing of the Citizens Advisory Commission on federal areas
- Evaluation of state anti-degradation implementation guidance
- Funding for UA Mineral Resource Engineering and Geology Programs
- Funding for Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys staff, Geologic Materials Center, and airborne geophysical surveys

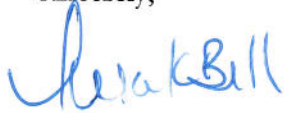
Significant constraints remain to be addressed in order for Alaska's mining industry to reach its growth potential. The Commission has demonstrated itself to be an effective body in making

Representative Saddler
February 11, 2013
Page 2

positive changes to support on-going mineral development in Alaska. Commission recommendations have helped to increase access, reduce permitting time, lower development costs, and encourage value-added processing.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Alaska Minerals Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan K. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "B".

Susan K. Bell
Commissioner