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SENATOR CLICK BISHOP

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 155 **(SSSB 155) (Version K)(Drafted February 3, 2020)**

“Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 155 (SSSB 155) – “An Act relating to exploration and mining rights; relating to annual labor requirements with respect to mining claims and related leases; relating to statements of annual labor; defining ‘labor’; and providing for an effective date.”

This bill improves mining policy, which allows miners to do what they do best: produce.

SSSB 155 addresses several issues that have arisen over the years from miners in Alaska. This bill represents a list of proposed legislative changes from individual miners, the Alaska Miners Association’s (AMA) working group, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To the extent inefficient or ineffective policy can be eliminated, all the better.

SSSB 155 does the following:

1. Clarifies qualifications for exploration and mining rights;
2. Improves the process (including providing notice) for curing a defect in qualification;
3. Synchs ground location methods for all state lands;
4. Clarifies location amendments;
5. Outlines clear guidelines for performance of annual labor;
6. Clarifies the information found in a statement of annual labor;
7. Allows for a better procedure for corrections to statements of annual labor;
8. Outlines a “due process” procedure for declaring mining claims invalid;
9. Defines “labor;”
10. Clarifies “abandonment;”
11. Ensures that mining on state selected land located on or after an active unpatented federal mining claim may be located only with recorded permission of the unpatented federal mining claim holder;
12. Clarifies applicability and ensures a smooth transition process (for regulations);
13. Outlines a transition process and when these legislative changes take effect.

Please join me in supporting SSSB 155.