



Comments on SB155 Mineral Tenure

Council of
Alaska Producers

February 5, 2020

Senator Peter Micciche, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Micciche,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing to support Senate Bill 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."

Formed in 1992, CAP is a non-profit trade association that represents the interests of Alaska's five large metal mines and several advanced projects. CAP informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

Under the current system, Alaska miners—ranging from small placer miners to large commercial operators—have encountered significant problems, including loss of land tenure, from minor mistakes and clerical errors relating to affidavits of labor and qualifications requirements. Some miners have spent thousands of dollars to resolve issues with competing claimants that arise due to vague laws and regulations that do not clearly define what is required to maintain mining claims. Alaska cannot attract the investments needed to explore and develop its mineral resources with this risk to land tenure in place.

SB155 is needed to resolve these issues and prevent the senseless loss of mining claims from minor, correctable errors.

Thank you hearing this bill. We encourage the Resources Committee to pass it from committee quickly.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Senate Resources Committee