



SM Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company
P.O. Box 32199
Juneau, AK 99803

April 26, 2021

Chair Revak and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (HGCMC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB10: FUNTER BAY MARINE PARK: UNANGAN CEMETERY.

HGCMC is located adjacent to Hawk Inlet on Admiralty Island approximately 18 miles southwest of Juneau. The underground mine at Greens Creek is a world class producer of silver, gold, lead, and zinc; employs about 450 people; and is 100% owned and operated by Hecla Mining Company.

HB10 proposes to expand the existing Funter Bay State Marine Park in order to preserve the Unangan Cemetery for future generations. Preservation of this area will ensure that this dark chapter of our history is properly memorialized and that the descendants of all that were interned and those who died there will always have access to this important site.

The proposed park expansion is approximately 10 miles away from our property as the crow flies and will have no impacts to our operations.

We fully support this legislation and urge the Senate Resources Committee to do the same when it is in front of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Satre".

Mike Satre

Manager of Government and Community Relations
Hecla Greens Creek Mining Co.
PO Box 32199 Juneau, AK 99803
Office: 907.523.1410
Cell/Text: 907.957.2149
E-Mail: msatre@hecla-mining.com

CC: Senator Jesse Kiehl
Representative Sara Hannan



121 W. FIREWEED SUITE 120 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | 99503 | 907.563.9229 | ALASKAMINERS.ORG

April 27, 2021

Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chair Revak and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on HB10:
FUNTER BAY MARINE PARK: UNANGAN CEMETERY.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

HB10 will use existing state land to expand the Funter Bay State Park by 251 acres in order to provide protection of the Unangan Cemetery for future generations.

One of the long held priorities of AMA is to ensure that opportunities to develop our mineral resources in Alaska are not impaired by changes in land status at both the federal and state level. In our 2021 Issues of Concern document (attached), under Land and Mineral Management we state that any change in state land status should: ***Require a thorough evaluation of mineral potential and access prior to any State land allocation which would prohibit mineral staking and leasing such as parks, preserves, or land disposals.***

Unfortunately, in this case it does not appear that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has performed such an evaluation on this land. This evaluation should be a required and expected part of any land status change that will preclude mineral entry. Fortunately, our membership has stepped up and provided a high level evaluation of this area. There are no documented mineral occurrences on the land in question and access to existing mineral occurrences, patented claims and federal lands open to mineral entry are not unduly impacted. Therefore, the Alaska Miners Association does not have any further concerns with this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director



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2021 STATE ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR THE ALASKA MINING INDUSTRY

Ballot Initiative Severability

Support legislation that would nullify a ballot initiative if a court finds any segment of the initiative to be unconstitutional.

Water Policy

Require that designation of Tier 3 waters can only be made by a vote of the Legislature. Ensure the State of Alaska does not relinquish any permitting authority to private entities, such as delegating management of the State's water resources by approving instream flow water reservations to private parties. Affirm that existing water quality regulations ensure environmental, fish and wildlife, and human health protections.

Defend and ensure reasonable Clean Water Act permitting policies are maintained following the Supreme Court *Maui* decision.

Permitting System

Strengthen Alaska's permitting system by using innovation to attract and retain qualified, experienced personnel and adhering to timelines. Ensure that State agencies understand the role of OPMP to lead and coordinate State agency permitting activity for large projects. Promote and defend the stringent permitting process that protects Alaska's environment, and uphold this process to demonstrate that Alaska is again open for business.

Mineral Tenure

Ensure that State regulations written to implement SB155 are minimal, clear, effective, and consistent with the statutory changes.

Fiscal Policy

Immediately implement a comprehensive, long-term fiscal plan that ensures responsible spending at sustainable levels using budget reductions, use of Permanent Fund earnings, and new revenues from broad-based sources. Ensure State of Alaska fiscal policy includes strategies to grow and diversify the Alaska private sector economy.

Equitable Local Taxation

Ensure local taxes are broad based and equitable by amending State statutes to preclude severance taxes on the metal mining industry.

Funding Disclosure for Nonprofit Advocacy

Enact legislation to require disclosure when funds from nonprofit organizations are used to affect natural resource policy, permitting, litigation, and initiative proposals.

Permitting Process

- Require that water quality standards are scientifically supportable and developed using site-specific criteria and ongoing evaluation as needed due to changing natural conditions. Ensure continued availability of mixing zones.
- Ensure State coordination with federal regulatory agencies over Section 404 wetlands permitting, mitigation, and management to ensure that projects have access to reasonable wetlands mitigation tools.

Help USACE develop rapid functional assessment programs for streams and wetlands to ensure projects have an approved method to calculate credits and debits statewide. Encourage an open, consistent, and predictable statewide compensatory mitigation policy. Research the costs and benefits of establishing State primacy over the 404 program.

- Oppose federal encroachment on States' rights, such as the use of preemptive federal veto actions and unnecessary permitting requirements and the purchase of State lands by the federal government which prevents the development of mineral resources.
- Oppose unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings and critical habitat designations in Alaska and ensure all decisions are based on sound science.
- Oppose any policies that are designed to elevate one resource over another and recognize that established policies have proven that Alaska mining projects successfully co-exist with the natural environment.

Land and Mineral Management

- Maintain and defend State sovereignty over navigable waters as granted at Statehood.
- Require a thorough evaluation of mineral potential and access prior to any State land allocation which would prohibit mineral staking and leasing such as parks, preserves, or land disposals.
- Support State efforts to collect resource data, such as airborne geophysical mapping as a means for increasing future State revenues.
- Pursue and defend guaranteed access for all uses across all State and federal lands within Alaska.
- Actively engage with the Department of the Interior and industry to ensure that neither the review process for placing tribal lands into trust, nor the final designation of a parcel as trust land, results in any temporary or permanent restrictions on access to, and development of, resources on adjacent lands.
- Defend the 2020 Alaska Roadless Rule from litigation by third parties and from termination by a Resolution of Disapproval under the Congressional Regulatory Review Act or by other legislation.
- Pursue Secretarial Orders lifting ANCSA § 17 (d)(1) and other Public Land Orders.

Mining Education and Training

- Maintain a highly trained Alaskan workforce through support of all mining and geology related degree programs in the UA system, the UAF Mining and Geologic Engineering program, and vocational training programs like MAPTS.
- Maintain State of Alaska/industry partnership that supports Alaska Resource Education (ARE).

Statewide Policy Impacts

- Support continued successful collaboration between the State of Alaska and Province of British Columbia on responsible resource development within the transboundary region.
- Promote a statewide Constitutional amendment to eliminate management of our natural resources by ballot initiative.



Northern Light United Church

To: Members of the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs

Regarding: House Bill 10, protection of the Unangax Cemetary at Funter Bay

March 7, 2021

The Northern Light United Church Council supports the passage of House Bill 10, relating to the protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay; providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit.

Northern Light United Church hosted a potluck and reception there on February 10, 2020. We listened to elders and leaders from St. George and St. Paul describe what it was like for their parents to be interned at Funter Bay during WWII. They had travelled to Juneau to testify in support of protecting their relatives' graves at Funter Bay.

Our church is noted for supporting social justice issues in the community, the region, and the state, including demonstrating respect for and acknowledging the contributions of Alaska Native people. Northern Light United Church supports our Unungan brothers and sisters in their pursuit of protection for their ancestors' graves.

Respectfully yours,

Marianne Mills
Council Moderator

Cc: Pastor Faith McClellan

*The Mission of Northern Light United Church is
to make Disciples of Jesus Christ through God-centered Worship and People-centered Ministries*

2020-21
ANS Camp 70
Officers

Pat Walker
President

Desmona Stevick
1st Vice President

Marla Berg
2nd Vice President

Anne Fuller
Secretary

Maridon Boario
Treasurer

Andrea Cesar
Sgt.-at-Arms

Kevin Allen
Bev Russell
Camp Council



Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70
P.O. Box 20213 Juneau, Alaska 99802

March 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Representatives and Senators of the 32nd Alaska
State Legislature

**Support of House Bill 10, protection of the Unangax
cemetery at Funtier Bay**

The Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 70 -Glacier Valley, supports the passage of House Bill 10, relating to the protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funtier Bay and providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funtier Bay marine park unit.

Many of our camp members participated in a potluck and reception hosted by Northern Light United Church Feb. 10, 2020. We listened to elders and leaders from St. George and St. Paul describe what it was like for their parents to be interned at Funtier Bay during WWII. They had travelled to Juneau to testify in support of protecting the graves at Funtier Bay of their loved ones.

We value our Alaska Native ancestors. The Southeast Traditional Tribal Values speak to "Holding each other up." ANS Camp 70 supports our Unangan brothers and sisters in their pursuit of protection for their ancestors' graves.

We remember that in 1957, the Juneau School District built Gastineau School over T'aaku and other Tlingit graves and in 1964, the USDA Forest Service built a campground over Aak'w graves. Disrespect of our sacred sites bring much pain and sorrow to our people. Further desecration of Alaska Native grave sites must not occur.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Walker,

ANS Camp 70 President



February 27, 2021

To: Members of the House Resources Committee

RE: HB 10: FUNTER BAY MARINE PARK: UNANGAN CEMETERY

Sealaska Heritage Institute strongly supports the protection of the Unangan cemetery as a unit of the State Parks Division, which is a matter of high cultural and historical importance to the Unangan people, as well as to the Tlingit people of Southeast Alaska who provided material assistance to them during their incarceration in the form of food and blankets. The preservation of the graveyard is significant to the relatives and descendants of those people laid to rest there, who are remembered and held sacred by their living descendants. A crucial dimension of this significance stems from the circumstances of their presence there, as incarcerated persons brought there involuntarily under extreme circumstances.

I can personally attest to the social and historical importance of this bill to the Unangan people of St. Paul and St. George from my experience with them in 1981, which I conducted research into their subsistence practices over a 3 week period. As I got to know the islanders, I soon learned about how their families were forcibly removed from their homes and taken to Southeast Alaska. They spoke to me about how they were given 1 hour to pack what they could carry with them, and to leave everything else. They were very concerned about their Russian Orthodox icons that were left behind in their churches, and which were never recovered as far as I know.

I heard about how they were taken to the wooden cannery building in Funter Bay, and how they stayed in one large room and had to hang up blankets which served as walls between the different families that were put there. Cold came through the wooden walls and plank floors of the uninsulated building. They also spoke of the shortage of food, and not knowing if they would ever return to their homes.

I worked for the National Park Service for 14 years running a research program documenting the attachments between communities and groups with social and historical connections to places that extended through generations. I learned how such places remain significant to groups even though they may have been separated by decades from their experience of the place, and how such connections remain significant to subsequent generations as part of a shared history. In the case of Funter Bay, this history is very close to the surface because it is recent, and because living families have close relatives who are buried in the cemetery.

The Tlingit peoples' ties with the Unangan people go back to the days of Russian occupation in the region when their ancestors were brought here to hunt sea otters. New relationships were formed during the WWII when Unangan people were incarcerated at several sites in Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Chuck Smythe

Chuck Smythe, Ph.D.

Director, Culture and History Department





—Juneau Douglas—
CITY MUSEUM

114 W. 4th Street, Juneau, AK 998001
907-586-3572 – Beth.Weigel@juneau.org

February 10, 2021

Dear Members of the House Resources Committee,

As Director of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, a department within the City and Borough of Juneau, I am writing in support of HB 10, “An Act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay and providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit; and providing for an effective date.”

At the beginning of 2019, a group formed to work on several initiatives related to the forced removal and internment of the Aleut people to Funter Bay and other camps during World War II. This evolving work group is made up of people affiliated with a wide range of organizations and interests from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Alaska State Parks and the Alaska State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, the Museum of the Aleutians, the Friends of Admiralty Island, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, the Juneau Public Libraries, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government, the University of Alaska Southeast, Tlingit Haida Central Council, Sealaska Heritage Institute, and a representative from the offices’ of Senator Kiehl, Representative Hannan, and Representative Story. The group is both advisory and actively working on three initiatives which are to:

- establish protections in perpetuity around Aleut gravesites that are located on Tlingit Aaní on Admiralty Island and is currently managed by the State Department of Natural Resources;
- develop and install interpretive panels at the cemetery site and for use locally for educational and outreach purposes through State Parks and;
- mount an exhibit on the Aleut Internment at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in summer 2020.

While the working group has gained momentum to bring these initiatives to bear, this work has been decades in the making. Since the U.S. Government removed the Aleut people “for their safety” and interned them in Funter Bay in 1942, these loyal Americans who experienced the death of their loved ones due primarily to deplorable living conditions, and the loss of their traditional homes and culture have sought reparations and to have their story and voices heard. Now more than 75 years later, you, the members of the House Resources Committee and the Legislature at large, have the opportunity to say this place, these gravesites, this story matters. With the passage of HB 10 the Aleut people and their descendants can seek healing, build a stronger community, and restore dignity and respect for those who are buried at Funter Bay.

As written by Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand President, Roy Peratrovich, at the time of internment, “It is our patriotic duty to offer every aid and comfort to these our fellow countrymen...”

Sincerely,

Beth A. Weigel, PhD
Director, Juneau-Douglas City Museum



With Spirit and Strength

February 24, 2021

Representatives & Senators of the 32nd Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capital
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Support of HB 10: Social & Historical Significance of Funter Bay Unangax' Cemetery

Dear Honorable Representatives & Senators of the 32nd Alaska State Legislature:

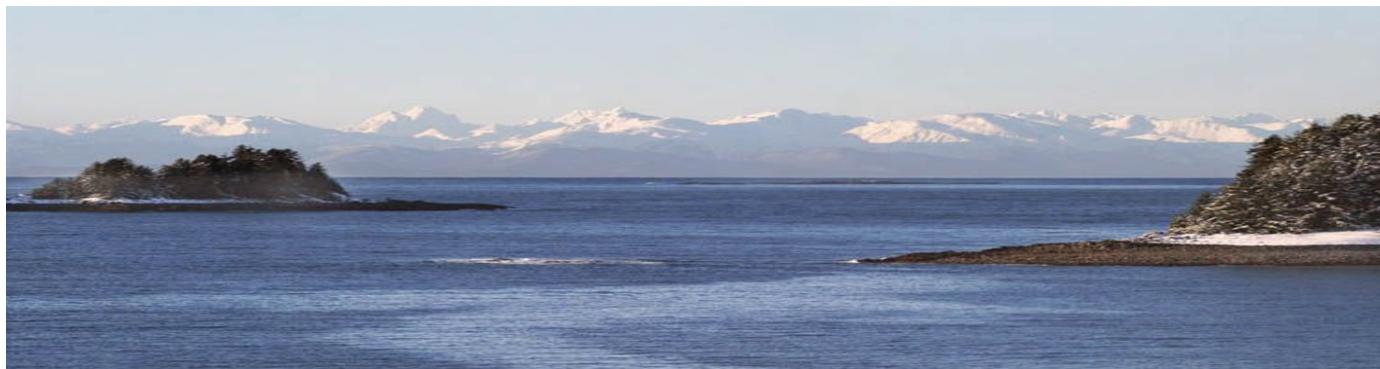
Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill No. 10, "An Act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay; providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit; and providing for an effective date."

The mission of Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association includes strengthening and preserving Unangax' cultural heritage. The forced removal of about 850 Unangax'/Aleut people from our region by the United States military and the placing of these people in abandoned canneries without basic facilities where about 10% of the people died in what has been appropriately termed wrongful deaths is an important part of Unangax' /Aleut history. Thus, we appreciate Representative Sara Hannan proposing the bill, we appreciate the members of the Representatives and Senators considering this bill. We strongly urge the Representatives & Senators of the 32nd Alaska State Legislature to pass Bill No. 10 to protect the Funter Bay Unangax' cemetery.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 276-2700 or dimitrip@apiai.org.

Respectfully,

Dimitri Philemonof
President/CEO



Juneau Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Photo by A. W. Hanger

**400 Willoughby Ave., Suite 500
Juneau, AK 99801**

Rep. Sara Hannan
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Hannon,

The Juneau Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board (JASPCAB) is writing in support of HB10 for the inclusion of the current DNR general Funter Bay lands parcel, which includes the historic Unangax Cemetery, into the boundary of Funter Bay State Marine Park.

The JASPCAB supports Alaska State Parks taking on the role to protect, manage, and inform about the importance of the cemetery and the events suffered by Unangan from St. Paul Island and St. George Island in Funter Bay during World War II. We feel the HB10 legislation is an important step for the protection and security of the cemetery as well as providing peace of mind to current and future generations of Unangan.

Thank you for this opportunity to protect this significant historical cultural resource for the Aleut community.

Respectfully,

Rory Darling
Christy Gentemann
Ric Iannolino
Joel Nudelman,
Deb Rudis
Forest Wagner
Mareta Weed

From: [Joel Bennett](#)
To: [Rep. Josiah Patkotak](#)
Cc: [Timothy Clark](#)
Subject: Support for HB 10
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:57:52 PM

Dear Chairman Patkotak and committee members,

I strongly urge your support for HB 10.

I am a resident of Funter Bay who has owned property in close proximity to the lands designated in HB 10 for more than 30 years. In fact the northern border of my property is directly above the cemetery which is a focus of this bill.

I see no reason to object to this legislation. The land and water resources involved in the acreage designated in HB 10 have no significant commercial value. The highest and best use of these state lands is for a purpose that recognizes the historical and cultural significance of the interment of the Pribilof islanders during WW II.

You may be interested to know that Funter Bay residents on our side of the bay have taken an interest in helping to safeguard and preserve the cemetery for decades. State recognition of the important landmark is long overdue.

Yours sincerely,

Joel Bennett
Board Member, Friends of Admiralty



MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS

(907) 581-5150 • 314 Salmon Way Unalaska AK 99685 P.O. Box 648 Unalaska AK 99685 • www.Aleutians.org

February 24, 2021

32nd Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Support of House Bill No. 10: Social and Historical Significance of the Funter Bay Unangax Cemetery

To the Honorable Representatives and Senators of the 32nd Alaska State Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of House Bill 10, an “act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay.”

On behalf of the Museum of the Aleutians’ board and staff, I would like to voice my strong support of this bill. The Museum of the Aleutian’s mission is to collect, preserve, and share the rich cultural history of the Aleutian Islands region.

The forced removal of approximately 850 Unangax from the Pribilof Islands by the United States government had a significant and devastating impact on their heritage. The evacuated Unangax were relocated to Funter Bay, lived in substandard conditions, and not allowed to leave except as forced labor to harvest fur seals for the US Government. The Unangax were housed in abandoned canneries without basic facilities where about 10% of the population died. Disease epidemics including the flu and measles devastated the Unangax living in these deplorable conditions. The Unangax peoples that died at the Funter Bay camp are forever at rest in the Funter Bay Unangan Cemetery, having spent the last days of their lives in the worst conditions imaginable.

The Museum of the Aleutians appreciates Representative Sara Hannan proposing HB10 and the members of the 32nd Alaska Legislature for considering this bill. As a repository that documents, collects, and preserves Unangax cultural heritage, we urge the House and Senate of the 32nd Alaska Legislature to listen to representatives of the Unangax peoples and pass House Bill 10 ensuring the protection of the gravesites of the Unangax laid to rest at Funter Bay.

For any further questions, please contact me at (907) 581-5150 or virginiahatfield@aleutians.org.

Regards, 

Virginia Hatfield
Executive Director

