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March 14, 2023

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Click Bishop and Senator Cathy Giessel, Chairs
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Comments submitted via email

Re: AMA Support for SB68, Public Notice for Water Rights

Dear Chairs Bishop, Giessel, and members of the Committee:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to support of SB68 *"An Act relating to a public notice for a sale, appropriation, or removal of water, or for filing a declaration of a right of water, and providing for an effective date"* as written at introduction and in version 33-LS0412\B available as the date of this comment letter.

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, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

AMA is in steadfast support of legislation that provides regulatory agencies efficiency and cost savings while still accommodating their mission. The longtime requirement for Alaska's regulatory agencies to place public notice for water rights in local newspapers was sensible and appropriate when it was established; today it is not.

AMA also supports this legislation for the cost savings that will be realized by the private citizens and permittees who may apply for water rights actions.

We urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass this bill, and will remain supportive in the language contained in SB68 as the date of this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director



**Support for SB68
Public Notice for Water Rights**

March 14, 2023

Senator Click Bishop and Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-Chairs
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Bishop, Senator Giessel, and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing to support SB68, "An Act relating to public notice for a sale, appropriation, or removal of water, or for filing a declaration of a right of water; and providing for an effective date" as written at introduction and in version 33-LS0412\B.

Formed in 1992, CAP is a non-profit trade association that works to inspire Alaskans to realize a shared goal of sustainable mineral production, providing economic and social benefits to our communities and the people of Alaska. CAP represents the interests of Alaska's five large metal mines and several advanced projects, informing members on legislative and regulatory issues, advocating for the mining industry, and educating members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues.

By moving public notifications from costly classified ads to the existing Alaska Online Public Notice System, this bill meets CAP's long-standing position to support efforts by the State of Alaska to reduce costs by finding more efficient ways to operate.

Thank you for hearing SB68. We encourage the Resources Committee to pass it from committee and we will continue to support the current language of the bill.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias
Executive Director

Founded 1975

Executive Director
Leila Kimbrell

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 12, 2023

Submitted electronically via: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

Co-Chairs Senator Bishop and Senator Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska. 99

Re: Support for SB 68

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Bishop and Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) writes in support SB 68, relating to public notice for a sale, appropriation, or removal of water, or for filing a declaration of a right of water; and providing for an effective date, as the bill is currently proposed.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

SB 68 seeks to streamline the current process of public notice procedures for water rights to an online publication process. Current notice requirements require publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area. In the digital age, printed newspapers are becoming less and less common. This move is overdue and consistent with other processes that have moved to an online public notice procedure. The efficient processing of state water rights is essential for many of our industries, including the mining industry. While this is mostly an administrative measure, RDC appreciates efforts to build efficiencies into governmental permitting processes which will help lower overall costs of implementation for permitting water rights.

RDC supports the bill as currently written, importantly because it does not alter current substantive water rights other than processing public notices. Should anything change in the bill in this regard, RDC may not be able to continue this statement of support and would reserve the right to reassess any future amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this matter.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director

