

HB

135

<TARGET><BILL>HB 135</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
135</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES28</COMM></TARGET>

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)
Date Referred to Committee: February 22, 2013

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/19/14

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 135

HOUSE BILL NO. 135

"An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area."

HB 135-PETERSVILLE RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

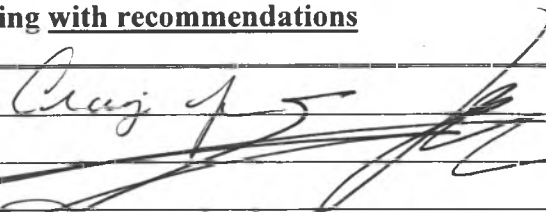
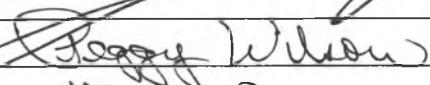
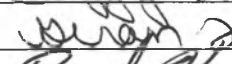
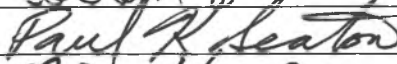
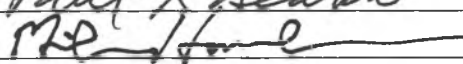
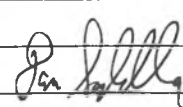
Recommends it be replaced with [] HCS or [] CS for _____ (_____)
For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR _____ [] Same Title [] New Title

- [] attach amendments
- [] add new referral to _____ Committee
- [] Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
DHS
LWF
LAW
LEG
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

| NEW FISCAL NOTES | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------|--------|------|
| *FN# is assigned by Chief Clerk's Office | | | | |
| *FN# | List by Dept(s): | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero |
| | DNR | | | X |
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| PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|------|
| FN# | List by Dept(s): | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero |
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| <u>Signing with recommendations</u> | Printed Last Name | DP | DNP | NR | AM |
|--|-------------------|----|-----|----|--------------|
|  | Johnson | | | X | X |
|  | WILSON | | | X | |
|  | TARIR | | | X | |
|  | SEATON | | | X | |
|  | Hawker | * | | | |
| Chair:  | SANDRA | X | | | |
| Chair: | | | | | |

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:

600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone (907) 373-1842
Fax: (907) 373-4729



Session:

State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2186
Fax: (907) 465-3818

REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER

Sponsor Statement HB 135

“An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area.”

House Bill 135 is legislation to correct errors made in 1997 which resulted in a section of the Petersville area remaining closed to recreational mining while two adjoining sections were opened. It was not the intent to keep this area closed but the language remains in place.

HB 135 gives the Department of Natural Resources the necessary language to negotiate with the federal Bureau of Land Management for transfer of the referenced southern region to the state. Once that transfer is complete the region can be opened to recreational mining with state oversight.

Your support of HB 135 will establish a clear definition of the specific areas to be freed up. It opens the door to transfer land from the feds, and adds approximately 200 acres of Alaska for resource development.

E-Mail: Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov
Call Juneau Toll free: (800) 468-2186
Website: www.housemajority.org/keller/

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 135
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB135-DNR-MLW-2-14-14
Title: PETERSVILLE RECREATIONAL MINING AREA
Sponsor: KELLER
Requester: House Resources

Department: Department of Natural Resources
Appropriation: Land & Water Resources
Allocation: Mining, Land & Water
OMB Component Number: 3002

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY2015 Appropriation Requested | Included in Governor's FY2015 Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2015 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Positions

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

Change in Revenues

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

| |
|-----------------|
| Initial Version |
|-----------------|

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Prepared By: | Brent Goodrum, Director | Phone: | (907)269-8600 |
| Division: | Mining, Land & Water | Date: | 02/14/2014 05:00 PM |
| Approved By: | Joe Balash, Commissioner | Date: | 02/14/14 |
| Agency: | Department of Natural Resources | | |

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB135

Analysis

HB 135 amends AS 46.23.630(f) by removing certain lands from the Petersville Recreational Mining Area.

DNR expects there to be no fiscal impact on the State and does not anticipate needing additional resources to implement these provisions.



Petersville, AK, USA

TRAPPER CREEK

TALKEETNA

© 2013 Google
Image © 2014 DigitalGlobe
Image Landsat

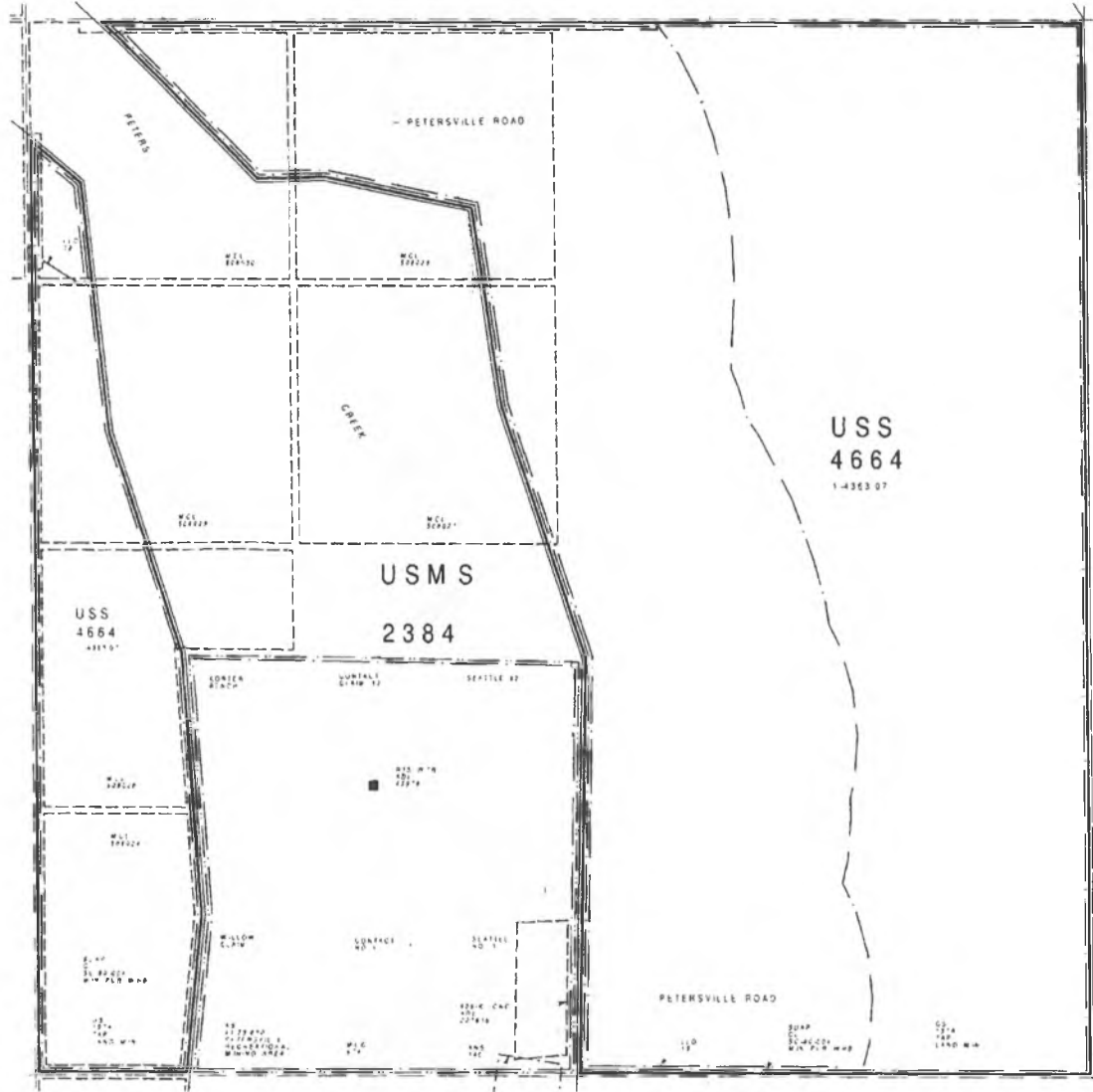
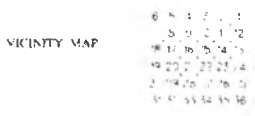
Google Earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 62°23'33.43" N 150°31'06.74" W elev 932 ft eye alt 27.47 mi

SEC 21 TOWNSHIP 28N RANGE 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA

LEGEND

- BASIC INFORMATION**
- INDEX MAP
 - SURVEY LINE
 - SECTION LINE
 - TOWNSHIP/SECTION GRID
 - 1/4 SECTION LINE
 - DEEDWAY
 - RIGHT OF WAY
 - RAILROAD
 - TELEPHONE LINE
 - SPRING
 - AIRPORT LANDING STRIP
 - HORIZONTAL CENTERLINE
 - CENTER MONUMENT
- STATUS INFORMATION**
- WATER
 - BOUNDARY
 - CLASSIFICATION
 - MUNICIPAL
 - RESTRICTION
 - FEDERAL ACTION
 - MONTANA HEADQUARTERS
 - LANDS OF ACQUISITION
 - NATIVE PERMIT AND
 - ABSENTEE HERMIT
 - TRAPPING CABIN PERMIT
 - TRAPLINE LOCATION
 - SURFACE WATER RIGHTS APPLICATION PERMIT
 - CERTIFICATE
 - NON-SURFACE WATER RIGHTS APPLICATION PERMIT
 - CERTIFICATE
 - IN-STREAM FLOW RESERVATION APPLICATION
 - CERTIFICATE
 - DAM WATER BARBER APPLICATION PERMIT
 - CERTIFICATE



STATUS PLAT

THE STATE OWNS ALL LAND UNDER SURVEY THAT HAS NOT BEEN PLACED UNDER SURVEY TO THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD OR THE SEWARD OR LITTONAL TO THE LANDS OWNED BY THE STATE.

BASED UPON:

COORDINATES:
 SEWARD MERIDIAN PLATS 28N 8W
 OF FEDERAL SURVEY
 T. 28N R. 8W
 S. 1000000
 T. 28N R. 8W
 LONG. 150 TO 21450 W

INDEX MAP:
 THIS STATUS PLAT AND IS EXTENDED BY 800' FROM
 SURFACE HIGH ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY 1978 1988

LAND USE:
 PLM PROTECTION DIAGRAM 11-11-11 APPROVED 11-11-11
 PLM PROTECTION DIAGRAM 11-11-11 APPROVED 11-11-11
 PLM PROTECTION DIAGRAM 11-11-11 APPROVED 11-11-11
 PLM PROTECTION DIAGRAM 11-11-11 APPROVED 11-11-11

OTHER ACTIONS AFFECTING DECISIONS ON THIS LANDS:
 SEE THE TAX CATERING OR RECORDS FOR THE PLATS FOR
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

ENTIRELY WITH MATANUSA-SENA RESERVATION:
 ENTIRELY WITH MATANUSA-SENA RESERVATION
 SUBJECT TO SURVEY AND PLATS
 AS THE LATEST SURVEYING PERMIT AND EFFECTS OF OTHER
 SURVEYING PERMIT PROCEEDINGS AND PLATS
 RECORDATIONS AS SHOWN THERE AS PERMITTED BY THE
 SURVEYING PERMIT AND EFFECTS OF OTHER
 RECORDATIONS AS SHOWN THERE AS PERMITTED BY THE
 SURVEYING PERMIT AND EFFECTS OF OTHER
 RECORDATIONS AS SHOWN THERE AS PERMITTED BY THE

USS
4664
1-43150-07

USMS
2384

USS
4664
46150

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION ONLY.
 SOURCE DOCUMENTS REMAIN THE OFFICIAL RECORD
 CONSULT LAND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS OR AS
 CASTER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



ATTENTION STATUS PLAT USERS: ON THIS PLAT ALL STATUS
 LINES CLOSE FOR ACTIONS THAT EXTEND INTO ADJACENT TOWNSHIPS,
 THIS INCLUDES STATUS LINES SUCH AS BOUNDARY, MUNICIPAL, TITLE,
 CLASSIFICATION, ETC. PLEASE REFER TO ADJACENT TOWNSHIPS OR LARS
 TO DETERMINE IF ACTIONS EXTEND BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES SHOWN ON
 THIS PLAT. REMEMBER TITLE, CLASSIFICATION, AND RESTRICTION LINES
 ALWAYS CLOSE ON ALL PLATS

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 LAND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION SECTION

PLAT NUMBER TO BE ADDED TO THE PLAT
 STATUS PLAT TRAILING SYSTEM CONTAINS ALL
 OTHER PERTINENT ACTIONS OF THIS TOWNSHIP/PLAT

CREATED BY: DAVE LACK
 ARC 1/2000

SEC 21
 SP
 TWP 28N
 RNG 8W
 SM

SEC 28 TOWNSHIP 28N RANGE 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA

LEGEND

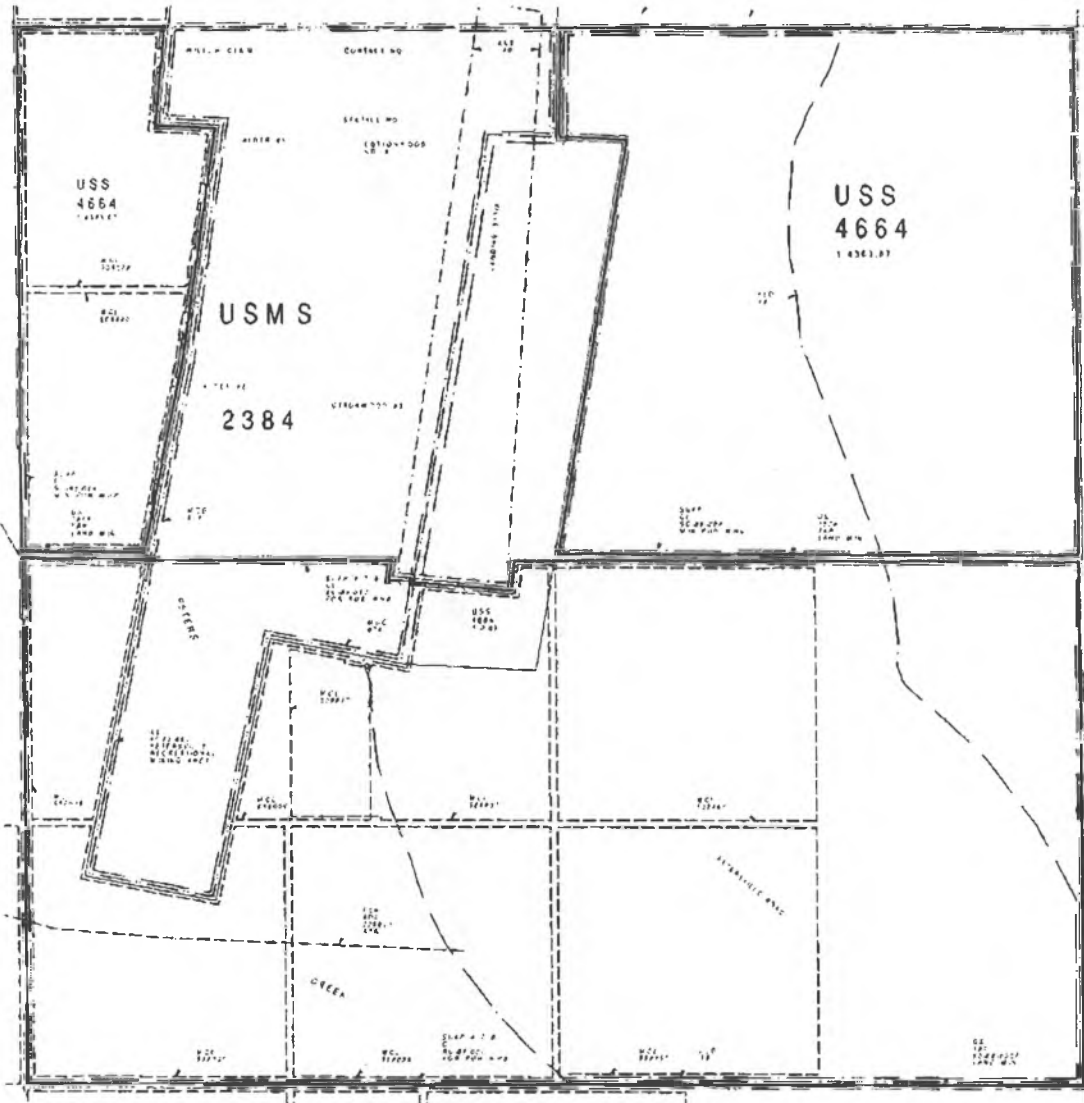
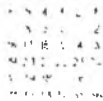
BASE INFORMATION

- METEOROLOGICAL
- STREET LINE
- SURVEY LINE (20)
- BOUNDARY LINE (20)
- IN SECTION LINE
- FENCEWAY
- ROAD
- CANAL
- RAILROAD
- • • • • ELECTRICAL POWER LINE
- • • • • TELEPHONE LINE
- • • • • TELEVISION LINE
- AIRPORT/ANGLED STRIP
- WINDMILL/STAIRCASE
- FENCE/POST/STAKE

STATUS INFORMATION

- TITLE
- BOUNDARY
- CLASSIFICATION
- RESTRICTION
- RESERVATION
- FEDERAL RESERVE
- MENTAL RESERVE
- • • • • LINES OF ACTS
- • • • • NATIONAL AND
- • • • • LAND FORMS
- • • • • BRANCH CANAL DAM
- • • • • RESERVATION
- • • • • SUSPECT WATER RIGHTS
- • • • • WATER
- • • • • CERTIFICATES
- • • • • SUB AREA WATER RIGHTS
- • • • • WATER
- • • • • CERTIFICATES
- • • • • IN SYSTEM RESERVATION
- • • • • WATER
- • • • • CERTIFICATES
- • • • • DAM WITH BARBER
- • • • • WATER
- • • • • CERTIFICATES

VICINITY MAP



STATUS PLAT

THIS PLAT SHOWS THE LAND UNDER SURVEY, THE SURVEYED LOTS AND BLOCKS TO THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN IN THE TOWNSHIP OF 28N RANGE OF 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

REFERENCES:
 ALASKA STATE PLANS, BOOK 4 OF 2000, PAGES 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23, 1-24, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27, 1-28, 1-29, 1-30, 1-31, 1-32, 1-33, 1-34, 1-35, 1-36, 1-37, 1-38, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-44, 1-45, 1-46, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-50, 1-51, 1-52, 1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-56, 1-57, 1-58, 1-59, 1-60, 1-61, 1-62, 1-63, 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, 1-67, 1-68, 1-69, 1-70, 1-71, 1-72, 1-73, 1-74, 1-75, 1-76, 1-77, 1-78, 1-79, 1-80, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-84, 1-85, 1-86, 1-87, 1-88, 1-89, 1-90, 1-91, 1-92, 1-93, 1-94, 1-95, 1-96, 1-97, 1-98, 1-99, 1-100.

NOTES:
 THIS PLAT IS BASED ON THE SURVEY OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1899, AND THE SURVEY OF THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1900.

OTHER NOTES:
 THIS PLAT IS BASED ON THE SURVEY OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1899, AND THE SURVEY OF THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1900.

GENERAL NOTES:
 THIS PLAT IS BASED ON THE SURVEY OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1899, AND THE SURVEY OF THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1900.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION ONLY. SEE DEED DOCUMENTS READING THE ORIGINAL RECORD (PAPER) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.



ATTENTION STATUS PLAT USERS: ON THIS PLAT ALL STATUS LINES SHOW FOR ACTS THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE SURVEY. THIS INCLUDING STATUS LINES SUCH AS (ORIGINAL, ADJUDICATED, RECLASSIFICATION, ETC.). PLEASE REFER TO ADJACENT TOWNSHIP OR RANGES TO DETERMINE IF ACTS EXISTED PRIOR TO THE SURVEY. THIS PLAT IS BASED ON THE SURVEY OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1899, AND THE SURVEY OF THE 28N AND 8W OF THE SEWARD MERIDIAN BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1900.

STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

SEC 28
 SP
 TWP 28N
 RNG 8W
 SM

PREPARED BY: DAVID HANK

Inset Map



South Petersville Recreational Mining Area

Recreational Mining

Public because the
claim has not been
approved by DNR yet.

Fish Streams
Recreational Mining claims in USMS 2384

Petersville Recreational Mining Areas (AS 41.23.630)

Albers Projection
Central Meridian: -96
1st Std Parallel: 20
2nd Std Parallel: 60
Latitude of Origin: 40

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
550 W. 7th AVE., SUITE 1070
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3579

PHONE (907) 269-8800
FAX (907) 269-8904

April 9, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Huggins
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Your Letter of January 29, 2010 on the Petersville Recreational Mining Area

Dear Senator Huggins:

Your letter of January 29, 2010 asked what steps would be needed to reverse the recreational mining designation for the southern portion of the Petersville Recreational Mining Area. The Petersville Recreational Mining Area was enacted under House Bill 46 in 1997 and consists of two areas near Petersville. One area now open for recreational mining is referred to as the northern area and covers 300 acres. The other area is not yet state owned, therefore it is closed to recreational and other mining. This is referred to as the southern area covering 200 acres. The southern area is closed because the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has not yet conveyed the land to the State. The holdup on conveyance has been because of a lease that the BLM is issuing to Michele Stevens for 5 acres within this southern area. We believe that the lease is scheduled to be issued in the near future. Since 1997, the northern recreational mining area has not had much use due in part to difficult access.

To ~~terminate the legislative designation~~ of the southern area, the enabling statute (AS 41.23.630) will need to be modified. In AS 41.23.630 - Petersville Recreational Mining Area, the following verbiage under Section (f)(1) would have to be removed from the statute in order eliminate the southern portion of the Petersville Recreational Mining Area:

[SECTIONS 21 AND 28; ALDER NO. 1; ALDER NO. 2; COTTONWOOD NO. 3; COTTONWOOD NO. 4; SEATTLE NO. 2; CONTACT NO. 1; CONTACT NO. 2; WILLOW CLAIM; KORTER BENCH.]

If the above statutory language were removed, the Commissioner of DNR would then need to issue a Mineral Opening Order to make these lands open to mineral entry (under AS 38.05.185). The land transfer from the BLM would also need to occur before the lands can be open to mineral entry, although "At Risk" claims could be staked by anyone prior to the land transfer. These at risk claims would

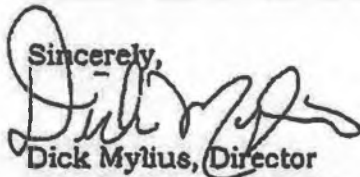
"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

convert to regular state claims following conveyance of the lands to the State by the BLM.

We believe that these recreational mining areas represent a unique opportunity for weekend enthusiasts and visitors to our State to enjoy the outdoors and the fun of non-mechanized mining. If the area is open to mining claims, we expect that a few recreational suction dredge miners may object to then being locked out by the new claimants that would stake mining claims. Other than Ms. Stevens, DNR has not heard from any other members of the public that the Recreational Mining Area should be terminated. In addition, there is no assurance that Michelle Stevens would be the first to stake claims for the law is in favor of whoever stakes the claim first after the land becomes open. It is likely that a number of claimants would end of with conflicting claims. It is likely that the Department of Fish and Game may have concerns about any large-scale mining on the active portion of the Creek.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Dick Mylius, Director
DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water

cc: Michele Stevens
Tom Irwin, Commissioner, DNR
Rick Fredericksen, DNR, DMLW, Mining Section Chief

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

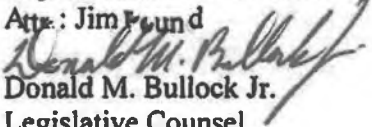
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2013

SUBJECT: Amending the land description for the Petersville Recreational Mining Area (Work Order No. 28-LS0190\A)

TO: Representative Wes Keller
Att.: Jim Grund

FROM: 
Donald M. Bullock Jr.
Legislative Counsel

The bill delivered to you earlier amends the description of land and water that are included in the Petersville Recreational Mining Area (Petersville). You asked whether this bill violates the prohibition against local and special legislation in art. II, sec. 19, Constitution of the State of Alaska.¹ Passage of the bill is not prohibited by art. II, sec. 19.

The establishment of the area is authorized by art. VIII, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of Alaska. Section 7 authorizes the legislature to acquire special purpose sites and to preserve and administer the sites for the "use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people."² A description of the area is consistent with acquiring and administering a specific area for the people, and this bill amends the description of Petersville.

While a description of any limited area in the state is necessarily local, the constitutional authority to acquire and administer Petersville necessarily requires a description of the

¹ Article II, sec. 19. Local or Special Acts. The legislature shall pass no local or special act if a general act can be made applicable. Whether a general act can be made applicable shall be subject to judicial determination. Local acts necessitating appropriations by a political subdivision may not become effective unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in the subdivision affected.

² Article VIII, sec. 7. Special Purpose Sites.

The legislature may provide for the acquisition of sites, objects, and areas of natural beauty or of historic, cultural, recreational, or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration and preservation for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.

Representative Wes Keller
January 29, 2013
Page 2

area within Petersville. This bill amends the description of that area. Given the context, the local or special prohibition is likely inapplicable.

You may wish to review the reasons for excluding the mining claims listed in the bill. Although the designation of the specific area may be necessary for the establishment and administration of the area, the basis for excluding previously included land and water should be consistent with the management of Petersville for the people of the state.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DMB:Ind
13-050.Ind

January 2014

For the record my name is Michele Stevens and I am a lifelong Alaskan. My testimony is in support of HB 135, and will provide historical context.

HB 135, Petersville Recreational Mining Area. This legislation removes several mining claims (Alder #1, Alder #2, Cottonwood #3, Cottonwood #4, Seattle #1, Seattle #2, Contact #1, Contact Claim #2, Willow Claim, and Korter Bench) from the southern part of the Petersville Recreational Mining Area.

In 1994 I relinquished approximately 500 acres of what were previously federal mining claims. The federal claims are encompassed by state-selected land with mining claims which I acquired from John Jacobsen (also known as the Peters Creek-Jacobsen Mining Property).

The Division of Mining and I discussed the creation of a recreational mining area located in USMS 2384. Jacobsen had previously spent over a million dollars surveying the federal mining claims so the Division of mining and I agreed to use the federal monuments and names as reference points and boundaries for the proposed site.

I agreed to gift (relinquish my mineral rights) the federal portions of my state selected claims to the State of Alaska with an express commitment by the State Division of Mining that once the federal land was conveyed to the State of Alaska, approximately 220 acres of the area, that would become known as the south Petersville Recreational Mining Area would be leased to me for the establishment of a commercial recreational mining concession. This concession would include a museum and other amenities to be provided by myself. I own several historic buildings built in 1936, and a Marion steam shovel that helped build the Panama Canal and the Alaska railroad. The Shovel came to Petersville during the 1940's and was used for mining and are still located on said previous federal mining claims.

The agreement I had with the State Division of Mining to transfer or gift my state-selected mineral rights to the state was necessary because there was no legal mechanism at that time for the Division of Mining to allow recreational mining on state mining claims and for me to have a recreational mining business on state mining claims.

To ensure the area could be managed in accordance with our agreement and that other parties could not stake state mining claims in the affected area, a mineral closing order (# 674) was issued on June 2, 1994. Commissioner Harry Noah also mentioned in his letter that "in conjunction with support from the Alaska Miners Association and other agencies and *individuals* for closing the area described in MCO #674 and proceeding with establishing the recreational mining area, The Division of Mining has requested closing the land" The associations he refers to are the Alaska Miners Association/ President Steve Borell, The Yentna Mining Dist/ President Carol Young, and the individual referred to is Michele Stevens (see attached letter)

December of 1996 Jules Tileston drafted a letter to introduce the new regulations for the use of the Petersville Recreational Area, and it stated "after working with *individuals* and *groups* that have suggested changes to the Division." (see attached letter)

In the proposal for the legislation it stated "the basic intent of the withdrawal action was to secure a place that provides the public a high quality chance to pan for gold, provide revenues to the state, *promote local enterprise*, and provide an educational experience about gold mining." It also states "*In addition*, we would propose the legislation provide direction that the department should aggressively pursue the opportunity to have *private enterprise develop and run* a high quality public recreation experience centered around gold panning." In support of the Recreation Area and because of the agreement the Division of Mining and I had I wrote to my Senator and Representative asking for them to sign the regulations into legislation.(see attached letters)

May 8, 1997, House Bill 46 was signed into law establishing two portions of recreational mining areas, the North Petersville Recreational Area that is currently active and the South Petersville Recreational Mining Area, both totaling approximately 500 acres. As previously stated the *INTENT* of the Department of Natural Resources was that approximately 220 acres in the southern Recreation area would be leased back to me when the State received conveyance or T/A of the land from Bureau of Land Management.

Subsequent to the claims being gifted to the State and issuance of the mineral closing order, the Department of Natural Resources determined that it could not under existing State law establish a non-competitive commercial lease to fulfill the agreement with me. However, in 2006 DNR determined a legal way whereby a commercial business could be operated on a portion of a state mining claim or claims by establishing a miscellaneous land use lease, provided there was concurrence with the state mining claim holder. This approach could not be used on lands designated by statute as a recreational mining area.

This current legislative amendment contains two provisions: 1) It would reinstate my full mineral rights to those portions of my mining claims ADL'S 508020-508026 that encompass the southern recreational area 2) It would remove the statutory designation and allow the DNR to lift the mineral closing order and would give the State the authority to proceed forward with procedure and my claims would become whole and then DNR can fulfill its original agreement with me.

I believe that the State of Alaska DNR, the Alaska Miners Assoc. and the Yentna Mining District all concur this is the best mechanism to proceed forward.

Thank you for your time on this matter

Michele Stevens



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 120 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9229 www.alaskaminers.org

January 18, 2014

Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: AMA Support of HB135

Dear Representative Feige and Representative Saddler:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a support letter for HB135, an Act establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area.

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

The history behind the introduction of HB135 is long and complex. In 1994, Ms. Michele Stevens negotiated with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, and as a result, Mineral Closing Order 674 (MCO #674). The concepts behind this agreement included: Ms. Stevens would relinquish certain mining claims on land the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act; Ms. Stevens would support Legislation to create the Petersville Mining Recreational Area; DNR would then develop a mechanism to allow commercial recreational mining on State land; and subsequently, DNR and Ms. Stevens would enter into a commercial lease on Ms. Stevens' private structures and mining equipment located on this land.

In 2006, DNR developed the process of commercial recreational mining on State land; however, it does require a valid mining claim under state law. MCO #674 prohibits a mining claim under State law. HB135 would correct this issue and allow Ms. Stevens to reestablish some of her former claims and enter into the commercial recreational mining lease with DNR, as originally intended in the 1994 agreement.

It should be noted that Ms. Stevens has gifted the State of Alaska with acres of placer gold resources that will remain open for public recreational mining, with the intent that she be allowed to enter into the commercial recreational mining agreement with DNR.

It is our understanding that DNR is fully supportive of HB135, as is the Yentna Mining District. AMA is very supportive of this legislation and we urge quick passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director

February 18, 2014

Statement of Support for HB 135 (Petersville Recreation Mining Area) by Jules V. Tileston

I strongly support enactment of HB 135. For the record, I am Jules V. Tileston, former Director of Mining and Water Management under Governor Hickel and Governor Knowles. Prior to working within DNR, I was the BLM Alaska official responsible for land use and mining on BLM lands in Alaska. My past employment at the Federal and State level provided a working knowledge of both Federal and State Mining Law in 1994.

I was personally involved in the negotiations between Ms. Stevens and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leading to the establishment of the Petersville Recreation Mining Area and the Mineral Closing Order (MCO)# 674 on June 2, 1994. On January 26, 2012, Ms. Marty Rutherford, former Deputy Commissioner ADNR, and I wrote Governor Parnell urging support for legislation to adjust the Petersville Recreation Mining Area established on May 8, 1997. HB 135 fully meets the objectives of the Tileston/Rutherford January 26, 2012 request to Governor Parnell.

The conceptual 1994 agreement between the DNR and Ms. Stevens was:

- Ms. Stevens would relinquish certain mining claims on land selected by the State under the provisions of the Alaska Statehood Act,
- Ms. Stevens' would support DNR's efforts to pursue legislation to establish the Petersville Recreation Mining Area,
- DNR would develop a process that would allow a commercial recreation mining activity on State land, and
- DNR and Ms. Stevens would enter into a commercial lease centered on her private structures and mining equipment in the area encumbered by the MCO and subsequent legislation establishing the Petersville Recreation Mining Area to support recreation mining activities on an area with ready public access and known placer gold resources that otherwise would have become private mining claims under State law when the land transferred from BLM to State ownership.

At the time of the MCO in 1994, DNR recognized there was no existing mechanism that would authorized a non-competitive commercial recreation mining activity on State land. But DNR in good faith with Ms. Stevens firmly believed there could be a mechanism that would accomplish both an opportunity to provide public recreation mining and a commercial private enterprise to support recreation mining on State land. It took until 2006 for DNR to develop this procedure. The final process requires the commercial recreation mining lease must also have a valid mining

claim under State law. In the case of the Petersville Recreation Mining Area, MCO# 674 prohibits a mining claim under State law. HB 135 would correct this issue by allowing Ms. Stevens to re-establish part of her former mining claims located on State Selected Land and enter into a commercial recreation mining lease. The remainder of the Petersville Recreation Mining Area encompassing approximately 380 acres along Peters Creek and the Petersville Road adjacent to the area affected by HB 135 will remain open to public recreation mining .

In summary, Ms. Stevens voluntarily gifted the State of Alaska valuable placer gold resources with the intent she would be provided an opportunity to enter into a commercial recreation mining lease with DNR.

My understanding is that the DNR supports enactment of HB 135 as does the Alaska Miners Association. I respectfully urge enactment of HB 135.

Jules V. Tileston

4780 Cambridge Way
Anchorage, AK 99503

Rep. Wes Keller
Room 118, State Capitol
Juneau AK. 90801-1182

Jan. 27, 2014
Carol Young, President
Yentna Mining District
P.O.Box 211
Talkeetna, Ak. 99676
carola@mtaonline.net
Ph.907-733-2351

Re: Southern section of Petersville Recreation Mining area. Constituent Michele Stevens.

Michele Stevens has asked me to comment on having the Southern portion of the Petersville Recreation area closed.

Legal description:

Township 28 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian. The following claims within section 21 and 28: Alder # 1 and 2: Cottonwood #3 and 4: Seattle # 1 and 2: Contact Claim #1: Contact Claim # 2: Willow Claim: Korter Bench. All invalid 20 acre Federal claims, which BLM currently holds title to.

A little History: On May 14th 1985 BLM null and voided all of the original 20 acre Federal claims previously held by Jacobsen and his wife since the early 1940's. To protect his interests, on May 20 and 21st 1985, Michele's predecessor, John Jacobsen, had 40 acre "State at risk" claims staked over all of the ground where his previous Federal claims had been, including the area that would later be proposed (1997) to become the South Recreation area. Jacobsen paid over \$100,000.00 to have a professional staking crew help with the new staking. On Jan. 1994 Michele Stevens acquired 127, 40 acre, State "at Risk" claims from Jacobsen.

I believe it was May 1994 that Michele and I had a meeting with DOM about having the recreational area's gifted to the state (the null and void Federal claims were used as boundary markers because they had been surveyed for patent previously). Alaska Miners Assoc, Yentna Mining District and several others went along with the June 2, 1994 MCO No 674 because of the promise of a concession to Michele Stevens for giving up valuable mining ground for a public cause, (copy of MCO 674 attached, by Comm.Noah) This issue was discussed with Director of Mining Jules Tileston, and Commissioner Harry Noah, and later with Deputy Commissioner Marty Rutherford and many others over a period of 20 years

Division of Mining wanted them for recreational use. Division of Mining told Michele she could have a "concession", (enclosed copy of original proposal by Jules Tileston) renting gold pans etc. and the DOM would have a percentage of this and it would be good to have someone to be there to organize things and to keep a sense of order. It would be a win win situation for both the State and Michele as it would give her some money to help preserve the historic buildings and the historic mining equipment and to build the museum promised to her predecessor in memory of his wife. The recreation areas were given to the Department of Lands instead of the Department of Mining to manage, when lands and mining merged and this was when everything changed, another long story. Employees come and go and Administrations change over a period of 20 years and things have a way of getting confused and misplaced and misunderstood. BLM did issue a RESIDENTIAL lease to Ms Stevens for 5 acres which is where Ms Stevens buildings are located so this helps protect the historical buildings, but she cannot run a business on it unless she goes up for a competitive public bid. This could go for any price and if Michele could not beat the price she would stand the chance of losing her buildings (which by the way is her support center for her mining ventures).

The bottom line to "quote from Comm .Noah's MCO 674" (Para 4 & 5): Para 4: " A recreational mining area and the activities associated therewith would constitute a significant use of the surface estate which would be INCOMPATIBLE with COMMERCIAL mining and mineral location. Conflicts could be created on the land between the surface and potential subsurface users. MCO 674 would become effective on the date the land is ACCEPTED by the State from the Bureau of Land Management by tentative approval or patent, whichever comes first, making null and void any mining claims staked on the land PRIOR to that date."

Para 5: "It is my finding, in accordance with AS 38.05.185(a), that COMMERCIAL MINING and mineral location would be INCOMPATIBLE with the INTENDED surface use of the subject land and therefore the best interest of the state and its residents is served by closing the land identified in MCO 674 to new locatable mineral entry under the locatable mineral and mining laws of the State of Alaska: MINERAL CLOSING ORDER 674."

The northern recreational mining claims are currently open to the public, as that land was conveyed to the State in the 90's. It is easily accessible as there are roads all along the site. The Southern Recreational area is closed pending legislative issues and is still BLM land.

All of the land that was State selected in the 1970's has been conveyed to the State of Alaska where the null and void Federal claims were, also the areas on both sides of the Federal claims giving Ms Stevens valid State claims. Everything has been conveyed to the State EXCEPT for the land where the Proposed South Recreational mining area is. State of Alaska has not accepted the Conveyance to the land until this issue can be resolved. BLM still holds title to this ground.

It would be appreciated if you would make it possible for the state of Alaska to honor their promise to Ms Stevens.

I know you are very busy and I sincerely thank you for your time spent on this issue.

Respectfully,



Carol Young, President
Yentna Mining District
(907-733-2351)
carol@mtaonline.net

PS.

We tried to have this changed over in 2012. It was HB 340 and was the 2nd year of a 2 year session. HB 340 made it through the House and all committees and to the Senate and all committees, it was on the secretary's desk in the Senate, waiting for a final vote by the Senate, when they ran out of time and adjourned the session. So we had to resubmit for a new bill in 2013 and start all over again. The new bill is HB 135.



Revised 8/09
DNR 10-162V
Traditional-Amd

AMENDED
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE MINING LOCATION NOTICE / CERTIFICATE
(TRADITIONAL CLAIMS ONLY)



CLAIM NAME/NUMBER: Peters Creek 2

DISCOVERY DATE: July 27, 1974

LOCATOR INFORMATION:

(The locator is the owner. Print the Name and Address below where correspondence should be sent):

1. Owner's Name: Auros Inc.
Mailing Address: P.O.B. 20
City, State Zip: Talkeetna, Ak 99676
Contact Phone: 907-733-1695

POSTING DATE: May 20, 1985

CLAIM DIMENSION:

Feet Long in N-S Direction: 1320
Feet Wide in E-W Direction: 1320

RECORDING DISTRICT:

Talkeetna

correcting only legal to match the original and existing stakes.
ADDITIONAL LOCATOR'S / OWNER'S (PRINT)

2. Owner's Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Contact Phone: _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

List all Meridian, Township, Range, Section and Qtr-Qtr Sections that apply to this claim: example (Meridian: Fairbanks T: 10N R: 5E S: 7 NW Qtr of SE Qtr)

Meridian: Seward T28N R8W S: 28 SW QTR of the NW QTR

3. Owner's Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Contact Phone: _____

This claim is being amended to include the area within USMS 2384 should the Alaska State Legislature remove Sections 21 and 28 containing the previous mining claims: Alder No. 1; Alder No. 2; Cottonwood No. 3; Cottonwood No. 4; Seattle No. 1; Seattle No. 2; Contact No. 1; Contact Claim No. 2; Willow Creek; and Korter Bench.

CREEK NAME: (optional)

Peters Creek

ALL OWNERS OR THEIR AGENTS MUST SIGN:

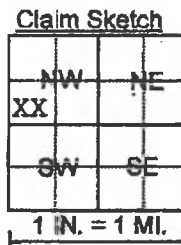
I, hereby certify that, on the date above, a location notice was posted on the monument at the NE corner of this claim, and to the best of my knowledge, in accordance with applicable State statutes and regulations.

1. Owner / Agent: _____
2. Owner / Agent: _____
3. Owner / Agent: Michele Stevens
Print
Agent's Name: Michele Stevens

CLAIM SKETCH:
(See instructions on reverse side.)
Optional In place of the claim sketch below, a separate map showing the location of this site is:

Attached to this certificate.

Attached to the certificate for the following claim:



Attach an extra sheet for Additional Owners and Signatures

This Amendment corrects the document originally recorded as:
Document No _____ OR Book 0167 Page 186

Div of Mining, Land & Water Use Only:

ADL _____

Amendment to Peters Creek 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8
ADL's 508020, 508022, 508024, 508025 and 508026

The following claims (Peters Creek 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 with ADL's 508020, 508022, 508024, 508025 and 508026) are being amended to include the areas within USMS 2384 and MCO 674 should the following events take place:

(a) the Alaska State Legislature decide to amend AS 41.23.630

(b) to remove Sections 21 and 28 within Township 28 North and Range 8 West containing the previous federal un-patented mining claims: Alder No.1; Alder No.2; Cottonwood No.3; Cottonwood No.4; Seattle No.1; Seattle No.2; Contact No.1; Contact Claim No.2; Willow Creek; and Korter Bench; and

(c) the Alaska Department of Natural Resources decides to vacate the mineral closing order within USMS 2384 within these two sections. As successor in ownership of the claims below that John Jacobson quit claimed to me (Michele Stevens) on January 21, 1994, I determined in 1997 to convey the previous federal mining claim areas and mineral rights back to the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources so that the State of Alaska could create a Recreational Mining area on the federal claim areas described below that are contained within USMS 2384. Although the Alaska Legislature enacted the Petersville Recreational Mining Area law (41.23.630) and DNR enacted MCO 674 in 1997, the State of Alaska has been unable to open the South Petersville Recreational Mining Area in the vicinity of Petersville and on the claims indicated below because of regulations set by Dept of Lands to fulfill promises intended by the Division of Mining at the time of statutes.

I have requested the State of Alaska to revoke AS 41.23.630 and MCO 674, upon which my state mining claims listed below (Peters Creek 2,4,6,7 and 8) will include those portions of the previous federal mining claims indicated above in section (b), so that my state mining claims will become whole.

Specific amendments to claims are as follows:

Peters Creek 2 (ADL 508020) is amended to include those portions of previous federal mining claims Alder #1 and Alder #2. Documents originally recorded as Book 0107 page 186

Peters Creek 4 (ADL 508022) is amended to include those portions of previous federal mining claims Alder # 1 and Willow Claim. Documents originally recorded as Book 0107 page 188

Peters Creek 6 (ADL 508024) is amended to include those portions of previous federal mining claims Korter Bench and Willow Claim. Documents originally recorded as Book 0107 page 190

Peters Creek 7 (ADL 508025) is amended to include those portions of previous federal mining claims Seattle #2, Contact Claim #2 and Korter Bench. Documents originally recorded as Book 0107 page 191

Peters Creek 8 (ADL 508026) is amended to include those portions of previous federal mining claims Korter Bench. Documents originally recorded as Book 0107 page 192



27th Legislature(2011-2012)

Bill History/Action for 27th Legislature

BILL: HB 340

SHORT TITLE: PETERSVILLE RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (S) SUP CAL 4/15

STATUS DATE: 04/15/12

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) NEUMAN, Olson, Keller
SENATOR(S) Giessel, Dyson

TITLE: "An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area."

Bill Number:

| Jrn-Date | Jrn-Page | Action |
|----------|----------|---|
| 02/22/12 | 1660 | (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS |
| 02/22/12 | 1660 | (H) RES |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) RES RPT 4DP 1DNP 1NR 1AM |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) DP: DICK, FOSTER, SEATON, FEIGE |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) DNP: GARDNER |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) NR: MUNOZ |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) AM: KAWASAKI |
| 03/14/12 | 1861 | (H) FN1: ZERO(DNR) |
| 03/23/12 | 1991 | (H) RULES TO CALENDAR 3/23/2012 |
| 03/23/12 | 1991 | (H) READ THE SECOND TIME |
| 03/23/12 | 1991 | (H) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 3/26 CALENDAR |
| 03/26/12 | 2015 | (H) READ THE THIRD TIME HB 340 |
| 03/26/12 | 2015 | (H) PASSED Y36 N1 E1 A2 |
| 03/26/12 | 2022 | (H) COSPONSOR(S): KELLER |
| 03/26/12 | 2023 | (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S) |
| 03/26/12 | 2023 | (H) VERSION: HB 340 |
| 03/28/12 | 1965 | (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS |
| 03/28/12 | 1965 | (S) RES |
| 04/02/12 | 2026 | (S) CROSS SPONSOR(S): GIESSEL, DYSON |
| 04/06/12 | 2080 | (S) RES RPT 2DP 2NR |
| 04/06/12 | 2080 | (S) DP: WAGONER, FRENCH |
| 04/06/12 | 2080 | (S) NR: PASKVAN, WIELECHOWSKI |
| 04/06/12 | 2080 | (S) FN1: ZERO(DNR) |
| 04/15/12 | 2382 | (S) RULES TO 3RD SUP CALENDAR 4/15/12 |
| 04/15/12 | 2382 | (S) HELD ON SECRETARY'S DESK |

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match

MINERALS

MINING

PARKS & RECREATION

PUBLIC LAND

Bill Number:

[Return to Basis Main Menu \(27th Legislature\)](#)

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE

March 2, 2012

1:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair
Representative Alan Dick
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Cathy Engstrom Munoz
Representative Berta Gardner
Representative Scott Kawasaki

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Peggy Wilson, Vice Chair
Representative Bob Herron

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 340

"An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area."

- MOVED HB 340 OUT OF COMMITTEE

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS(S) :

Big Game Commercial Services Board

Don Quarberg - Delta Junction
Michael Meekin - Palmer
Michele Metz - Douglas
Brenda Rebne - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION(S) ADVANCED

Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council

Clay Bezenek - Ketchikan
James Herbert - Seward

- CONFIRMATION(S) ADVANCED

Board of Game

Lynn Keogh, Jr. - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION(S) ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 340

SHORT TITLE: PETERSVILLE RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) NEUMAN

| | | |
|----------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 02/22/12 | (H) | READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS |
| 02/22/12 | (H) | RES |
| 03/02/12 | (H) | RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124 |

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE MARK NEUMAN
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as prime sponsor of HB 340.

EDMUND FOGELS, Deputy Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 340.

WYN MENEFEE, Chief of Operations
Central Office
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 340.

MICHELE STEVENS
Talkeetna, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 340.

KERWIN KRAUSE, Mineral Property Manager
Central Office
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 340.

DON QUARBERG, Appointee
Big Game Commercial Services Board
Delta Junction, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

MICHAEL MEEKIN, Appointee
Big Game Commercial Services Board
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

TINA BROWN
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Mr. Lynn Keogh, Jr., to the Board of Game.

JOE LETARTE, President
Alaska Trappers Association (ATA)
Two Rivers, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Mr. Lynn Keogh, Jr., to the Board of Game.

LYNN KEOGH, JR., Appointee
Board of Game
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Game.

ACTION NARRATIVE

1:10:38 PM

CO-CHAIR ERIC FEIGE called the House Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Representatives Foster, Gardner, Dick, Seaton, and Feige were present at the call to order. Representatives Kawasaki and Munoz arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 340-PETERSVILLE RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

1:10:56 PM

CO-CHAIR FEIGE announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 340, "An Act relating to the reservation of

certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area."

1:11:13 PM

REPRESENTATIVE MARK NEUMAN, Alaska State Legislature, prime sponsor, introduced HB 340, explaining it is a "fix-it" bill. In 1995 under the Hickel Administration, his constituent, Michele Stevens, had mining claims on about 220 acres of federal lands. The State of Alaska wanted that land, so it requested Ms. Stevens to lift her mining claims so the land could be transferred to the state. Ms. Stevens agreed to do so and worked with Jules Tileston, director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water at that time. Harry Noah was commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at that time. The state accepted the land and committed to convey the mining claims back to Ms. Stevens. However, Alaska's statutes disallow this from happening and Ms. Stevens has been working to make it happen since then. It is a time sensitive issue, he pointed out, and he has met with Ms. Stevens, Ed Fogels, the current deputy commissioner of DNR, and the Alaska Miners Association to figure out how to get these mining claims conveyed back to Ms. Stevens. He said the language in HB 340 allows the state to fix this mistake.

1:13:54 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER inquired whether Ms. Stevens has any documentation of the agreement that the state would give back the mining claims and then could not.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN replied yes, Ms. Stevens has multiple documents. Also, there is a letter in the committee packet from Mr. Tileston and Marty Rutherford, deputy commissioner of DNR at the time that it was DNR's intent to transmit these mining claims back to Ms. Stevens. He explained that a technicality in the way the Alaska statutes are written needs to be fixed. He added that he has personally spoken with Mr. Tileston about Mr. Tileston's desire to make Ms. Stevens whole again.

1:15:44 PM

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI requested an explanation of the term "recreational mining area".

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN deferred to Mr. Fogels.

EDMUND FOGELS, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), responded that a recreational mining area is a legislative designation by which land is set aside for the specific purpose of creating an area on which people can recreate and mine. A normal staked mining claim must be worked for mineral production in a commercial fashion and is not designed for recreational or tourism purposes. However, recreational mining areas were designed to allow recreational and tourism activity and are typically closed to mineral entry so that normal mining claims cannot be staked.

1:17:14 PM

CO-CHAIR FEIGE surmised there are limitations on the size of equipment that can be used on a recreational mining claim.

MR. FOGELS believed there is not and added that it is up to the legislature to decide how big of an area it wants to create.

1:17:31 PM

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN, returning to Representative Kawasaki's question, said he understood from talking with Ms. Stevens that her intent was to be able to open these areas so that people could recreationally try to find gold or other minerals.

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI asked for further explanation about the purpose of a recreational mining claim.

MR. FOGELS answered that it is not a recreational mining "claim", it is a recreational mining "area", which is an area that the legislature creates and sets the rules for. Typically, some kind of management plan is required to be in place and then DNR has the ability to go to bid for concession for someone to operate a recreational mining area. He pointed out that the Crow Creek Mine in Girdwood is a private enterprise rather than a state recreational mining area, but it is the same kind of operation - a tourist-oriented business that charges for a gold pan and the opportunity to pan for some gold in the creek.

1:19:23 PM

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI inquired about the differences in what would be required for a recreational mining area versus a traditional mining claim.

MR. FOGELS explained that for a traditional mining claim the state's mining laws must be followed for staking the claim, paying annual rental, working the claim, and showing that the claim is being progressed. Once there is an economic discovery, the state's permitting process must be undergone. If the state issues the permits, the mine can be built and people hired to begin a commercial mining operation that pays royalties and taxes. For a recreational mining area, the intent is to give Alaskans and other visitors a place to go gold panning either on their own or through a business that rents out gold pans for the day. The intent is for the recreationists to have fun and maybe get a few flecks of gold in their pans.

1:21:03 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON drew attention to the April 9, 2010, letter to Senator Huggins in the committee packet from Dick Mylius, Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water. He observed that page 2, paragraph 2, states that the area would be open to staking and there would be no assurance that Ms. Stevens would be able to stake prior to other people. He asked whether HB 340 enacts what this letter says or gets around that by ensuring that prior claims continue on through state ownership and leave the rest of the area open for a recreational mining area.

MR. FOGELS replied that HB 340 would remove just that one portion of recreational mining area from the whole recreational mining area. It is a very complicated land situation in that area, which is in part why there is this problem to begin with. The land has not yet actually been conveyed to the state; it is state selected land that is still owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The statutes that enact the recreational mining area are only valid on state land. It hovers above state selected land and will take effect as soon as that land gets conveyed to the state. The letter from Director Mylius points out that if the recreational mining area is removed there would then be no guarantee that Ms. Stevens would be the first one to stake the claim. In the subsequent looking at and picking apart of this complex situation, DNR thinks it may be more complicated than that, so the department is trying to chase that piece down. The bottom line is that there is still no guarantee that Ms. Stevens will be able to re-stake these claims if this bill goes through.

1:23:24 PM

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON observed that the April 9, 2010, letter states there are two areas - a northern area of 300 acres and a southern area of 200 acres. The letter further states that the northern recreational mining area has not been used much due to [difficult] access, so the presumption is that the southern area has better access and would provide the activity. He inquired whether HB 340 would vacate the entire southern area.

MR. FOGELS confirmed that HB 340 would vacate the entire southern area of 220 acres; he noted that the northern area has a lot of potential. At some point the department would next do a management plan for the entire area to determine a way to provide for a concessionaire in the southern area and focus recreational activity on the northern area rather than the southern areas.

1:24:31 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON asked why not remove only the five acres within the southern area on which the BLM is issuing Ms. Stevens a lease, rather than the entire two hundred acres.

MR. FOGELS believed the mining claims at issue for Ms. Stevens are more than five acres. He deferred to Mr. Wyn Menefee for further explanation.

WYN MENELEE, Chief of Operations, Central Office, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), explained that the original claims had by Michele Stevens encompassed the entire southern recreational mining area. Those claims no longer exist there, so currently there are no claims. The aforementioned five acres is a portion of the area that Ms. Stevens is working out with the federal government to bring under lease in order for the state to get conveyance of that land because there are trespass structures that must be brought into compliance before the state receives the land. Aside from that, currently there are no claims that sit over top of this area and therefore there is no five-acre claim and all the claims have disappeared.

1:27:05 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER understood the reason there are no claims [in this southern area] is because Ms. Stevens gave up those claims in the understanding that once the state had title she would be made whole.

MR. FOGELS confirmed that that is correct.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER maintained that it is not quite right to say those claims do not exist because Ms. Stevens has a standing agreement that was never met.

CO-CHAIR FEIGE replied correct, but said the claims have been released.

MR. FOGELS explained that Ms. Stevens voluntarily relinquished those claims and by law they extinguish and are no longer there.

1:27:58 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER noted that when Ms. Stevens voluntarily relinquished those claims there was an agreement with the state that when the state had title Ms. Stevens' claims would be reinstated. So, she concluded, there is a moral claim as well as a legal claim.

CO-CHAIR FEIGE commented that he, too, would be upset.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN responded that that is exactly what HB 340 is fixing - the intent of the bill is to fix that promise made by the state to Ms. Stevens. The state promised to make Ms. Stevens whole after that land was conveyed to the state, valuable land that the state wanted. Ms. Stevens agreed to do so even though she did not have to. In the complications of conveying that back to her, there are about four lines in statute that need to be changed, which is what HB 340 would do, and then the department can convey those claims to her.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER surmised there were original documents signed by the state regarding the state's promise to Ms. Stevens.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN answered he has seen documentation that would fill this room.

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI asked whether the Department of Law is available for questions.

CO-CHAIR FEIGE replied no. He invited Ms. Stevens to provide testimony.

1:30:07 PM

MICHELE STEVENS, a lifelong Alaskan, explained that in 1995 she gifted approximately 500 acres of area encompassed by state selected mining claims that she had acquired. These were located as a result of previous federal mining claims being declared null and void and were known as the "Peters Creek Jacobsen Mining Property". She agreed to gift portions of her state selected mining claim, situated within the U.S. Mineral Survey 2384, to the State of Alaska with the express commitment by the state that once the federal land was conveyed to the state, approximately 220 acres of the area known as the southern Petersville Recreational Mining Area would be leased to her for the establishment of a commercial recreational mining concession that would include a museum and other amenities to be provided by her. She owns several historic buildings and a Marion shovel that helped build the Panama Canal and the Alaska Railroad and was used for mining at Petersville in the 1940s. She also has other structures that are on the federal mining claims located within the 220 acres. She said Representative Neuman has maps of the area that can be shared with the committee. The agreement she had with the State of Alaska to transfer or gift her state selected mineral rights to the state was necessary because there was no other legal mechanism for her to have a recreational mining business on state land.

1:31:56 PM

MS. STEVENS specified that to ensure the area could be managed in accordance with the agreement with her and to ensure that other parties could not stake mining claims in the area, Mineral Closing Order 674 was issued on June 2, 1994. On May 8, 1997, House Bill 46 was signed into law establishing two portions of recreational mining area. The north Petersville Recreational Mining Area is currently active and the south Petersville Recreational Mining Area is not active. The two parcels total approximately 500 acres. It was the intent of the Department of Natural Resources that the approximately 220 acres in the southern recreational area would be leased to her when the state received conveyance from the BLM. Subsequent to the claims being gifted to the state and its issuance of the Mineral Closing Order, the Department of Natural Resources determined that it could not, under existing state law, establish a noncompetitive commercial lease to fulfill the agreement with her. However, in 2006, DNR determined a legal way whereby a commercial business could be operated on a portion of a state mining claim or claims by establishing a miscellaneous land use lease, provided there was concurrence with the state mining

claim holder. This approach, however, could not be followed for lands designated by statute as a recreational mining area.

1:33:49 PM

MS. STEVENS said HB 340 contains two provisions. First, it would reinstate her full mineral rights to those portions of her mining claim that encompass the southern recreational area, which can be seen on the map. Second, it would remove the statutory designation and allow DNR to fulfill its original agreement with her. She said the State of Alaska, DNR, and the Alaska Miners Association concur that this is the best mechanism to proceed forward.

MS. STEVENS, addressing the statement that the mining claims might not go back to her, explained that a mining claim located on the outside of a federal area is called an at-risk claim, so it automatically goes back to the person who has the area on the outsides of that portion. Since she has portions outside the proposed recreation area that are active mining claims, that gives her at-risk claims. She suggested that Mr. Kerwin Krause [of DNR] explain this.

1:35:25 PM

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI asked whether Ms. Stevens has the "expressed commitment" in writing so that the committee could see it.

MS. STEVENS replied she has some documents written by Jules Tileston expressing that he was working with the public, Ms. Stevens, and the Yetna Mining District to have this recreational area presented. She said the state has a whole folder of documents and related that Mr. Tileston has been talking with people in the department to let them know what the intent was.

CO-CHAIR FEIGE drew attention to the 1/26/12 letter to Governor Parnell from Jules Tileston and Marty Rutherford, who were DNR officials involved in the transaction at the time.

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI inquired whether Ms. Stevens has any information from 1994 when the "expressed commitment" was made.

MS. STEVENS confirmed that some things were written down by Jules Tileston, but said that back then it was a handshake type of thing - in her meetings with the DNR director and commissioner, everyone agreed that this would be a good

situation for everybody because the state would get revenue, people would have a place to recreate, and she could have a concession with a museum. It was supposed to be a win-win situation for everyone.

1:38:12 PM

MS. STEVENS, in response to Representative Gardner, agreed to provide a written copy of her testimony.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER said that like Representative Kawasaki she is looking for some kind of documentation. She inquired whether Ms. Stevens received any other kind of compensation when she signed the quit claim or other document at the time.

MS. STEVENS said she did not receive any money. The agreement with the state was that she would have a concession and the public could come and the state would receive revenue from the concession. It was supposed to be a win-win situation for the state, her, and the public because her buildings and equipment are historic and there was a need and a desire by the public to have a place to recreate since at the time it was illegal to have recreational mining on a mining property, claim, or lease. This was a way to let the public have a place to go.

1:40:30 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER specified that in the absence of documentation from the time, she wanted to make sure on the record that there was not some other compensation because, if not, she would say that Ms. Stevens was very generous to give up her claims to 500 acres for mining.

MS. STEVENS thanked Representative Gardner and replied she thinks the documentation is quite clear that Jules Tileston was the director [of the Division of Mining, Land and Water] and Marty Rutherford was the [deputy] commissioner [of DNR] at the time, and those are the people she was working with at the time to have a bill passed. She also wrote letters to Lyda Green and Rick Halford to have the bill passed. She felt the biggest documentation is what the committee has in front of it now, which states that this was the intent.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN interjected that he has spoken to Mr. Tileston and others about the intent and read the documentation presented by Ms. Stevens. He pointed out that the current DNR deputy commissioner has just testified before the committee that

that was the intent, and the letter from the director and deputy commissioner at the time states that that was the intent. Reputable people are saying that this was the intent of the state. There is a lot of documentation, he continued, but he was trying not to give the committee too much paper. He said HB 340 would simply make Ms. Stevens whole by fixing some language that would then allow the department to fix the situation.

1:42:48 PM

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI said that because he was not around when House Bill 46 was passed, he is trying to understand the issue since it is for a very specific area. He added that he is also trying to ascertain whether there could be potential legal exposure from creating a law that allows a noncompetitive commercial lease, as would be done by HB 340.

KERWIN KRAUSE, Mineral Property Manager, Central Office, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated that he thought Ms. Stevens had, or would be, providing to the committee some memorandums from Jules Tileston. Other than those and a few emails in the file, he said he is unaware of any letters issued on this matter by the commissioner or the director. In response to Co-Chair Seaton, he agreed to provide these documents to the committee.

1:45:12 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER noted that while the sponsor has said he has read all the documentation presented by Ms. Stevens, the committee only has a lone letter written 16 years after the fact and another letter written 18 years after the fact. It is important for the committee to do due diligence to determine what the agreement was at the time. While she has great respect for Mr. Tileston and Mr. Rutherford, it is important for the committee to look at all documentation that is available.

MS. STEVENS offered to provide the committee with the letters she wrote to Lyda Green and Rick Halford stating her support of House Bill 146 and that the bill would benefit her by allowing her to have a concession there. In response to Co-Chair Feige, she agreed to fax the letters to the committee. She added that if this is thought about logically, she would not have gifted the mineral rights back to the state if the state had not said that it would let her have a concession in return. Seventeen years ago this was the only way that a person could have a concession on mining properties.

1:47:42 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON read from page 2 of the 4/9/10 letter to Senator Huggins from Dick Mylius, which states: "In addition, there is no assurance that [Michele] Stevens would be the first to stake claims for the law is in favor of whoever stakes the claim first after the land becomes open. It is likely that a number of claimants would end [up] with conflicting claims. It is likely that the Department of Fish and Game may have concerns about any large-scale mining on the active portion of the Creek." Co-Chair Seaton inquired whether the current bill gets past the problems pointed out by Mr. Mylius.

MR. FOGELS replied that HB 340, as currently written, only gets partly there. It would remove the legislatively designated area. The Department of Natural Resources would then have to lift the Mineral Closing Order to make that land available to be staked. What complicates the matter is that that land is not yet state land, it is state selected. The BLM must actually convey that land to the State of Alaska. Thus, three key things have to happen before that land can be staked and have it be a valid staked claim. As mentioned by Ms. Stevens, an at-risk claim is where a claimant stakes a state claim on state selected land. It is not yet a real claim and will never be a real claim unless the federal government actually conveys that land to the state. If the federal government never conveys that land to the state, then it will never be a valid claim, which is why it is called an at-risk claim. Ms. Stevens has at-risk claims on top of federal land that is state selected that has a legislatively designated area on top of it and a state Mineral Closing Order on it, so it is very complicated. The department is trying to get some clarity from the Department of Law, but if Michele Stevens does indeed have valid at-risk claims staked, then once all this unravels and the state finally gets the land, then Ms. Stevens is likely to have her claims whole. He said he cannot at this point, from the department's perspective, tell the committee 100 percent that that is exactly what will happen.

1:51:12 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON, noting that HB 340 would write a statute, asked whether there is any other way to recognize the holdover claims from the federal government so as to avoid a time period of open staking.

MR. FOGELS responded the department has discussed that, and a number of other things could be done in this legislation. For example, the legislature could lift the Mineral Closing Order so the department does not have to do that later down the road. However, he did not know whether the legislature could actually reinstate those claims in HB 340.

1:52:28 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON said he does not want to hold up this process given that it is a process, but said it seems this process has the potential for further entanglements. Honoring the state's previous agreement needs to be done in the most expeditious way that does not open these claims to conflict. He requested that the sponsor and DNR work with the Department of Law to find out whether HB 340 can do that and not result in years of litigation for an Alaska citizen who acted in good faith. While he did not want to hold up the process, he said that perhaps the Department of Law could suggest a way to honor this commitment in a much clearer way than going through an open staking process and relying on at-risk claims to give priority.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN said that that is the intent, but certain steps must occur first, as stated by Mr. Fogels, and HB 340 is the first step in working through this process. Ms. Stevens acted in good faith and did not have to do this in the first place; she wanted to help the State of Alaska get these lands conveyed to it. Many people are working to make Ms. Stevens whole and this is the simplest way.

The committee took a brief at-ease.

1:56:49 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON stated that the committee is trying to find the most expedited way to accomplish this process without creating further legal entanglements for Ms. Stevens. He said he is hearing from DNR that there may be some other things that could be added by the legislature that the department cannot do. He understood that DNR would be conferring with the Department of Law between now and the next committee of referral to determine whether there are amendments that would accomplish the intent without putting Ms. Stevens' claims at risk.

MR. FOGELS confirmed that Co-Chair Seaton's understanding is correct.

CO-CHAIR SEATON said he is fine with moving the bill today but thinks there could be a better and clearer way to resolve this in Ms. Stevens favor.

REPRESENTATIVE KAWASAKI said he thinks there are legal issues with HB 340 and he therefore feels uncomfortable moving the bill with recommendations because there is no other committee of referral. The next time members will see this bill is potentially on the House floor.

1:58:47 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER stated that the bill is not quite ready, given that it has no other committee of referral. In principle, she absolutely agrees with the bill - the right thing to do is to make this person whole. However, it is also the right thing for the committee to ensure that it is doing things properly and with due diligence. This needs to be done correctly so it will not come back and bite the state.

CO-CHAIR FEIGE noted that the bill's next stop is the House Rules Standing Committee. While HB 340 is one way forward, he concurred that there may be other methods the Department of Law can recommend for righting the wrong dealt to Ms. Stevens. He requested that if the bill is reported from committee the chairman of the House Rules Standing Committee be provided with an opinion from the Department of Law as to any other options that might be available to the state or Ms. Stevens. It is unfortunate the Department of Law was unavailable for this meeting, he said, but he would like to see HB 340 moved out of committee in the spirit of righting this wrong.

2:01:21 PM

CO-CHAIR SEATON moved to report HB 340 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal notes.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER objected, saying that while she supports the bill in principle, she thinks it is "half baked" and will create a fiasco down the road.

REPRESENTATIVE DICK inquired whether the sponsor can provide assurance that HB 340 will do the right thing for Ms. Stevens.

REPRESENTATIVE NEUMAN replied that there have been many hours of discussion to get to this point to make sure that the right thing is being done, and he will continue to do that.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER maintained her objection.

MS. STEVENS suggested that reinstating the active mineral rights that existed prior to the [land transfer agreement] would probably clear up the problem.

2:03:27 PM

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Dick, Munoz, Foster, Feige, and Seaton voted in favor of reporting HB 340. Representatives Gardner and Kawasaki voted against it. Therefore, HB 340 was reported out of the House Resources Standing Committee by a vote of 5-2.

The committee took an at-ease from 2:04 p.m. to 2:07 p.m.

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS(S):
Big Game Commercial Services Board
Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council

2:07:23 PM

CO-CHAIR FEIGE announced that the next order of business would be [a continuation of the 2/22/12] confirmation hearings for the Big Game Commercial Services Board and Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council. [Confirmation hearings were held on 2/22/12 for Michele Metz and Brenda Rebne, appointees to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, and for Clay Bezenek and James Herbert, appointees to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council, but their names were not forwarded from committee.]

CO-CHAIR FEIGE requested Mr. Don Quarberg, appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board, to state why he would like to be on the board.

2:07:59 PM

DON QUARBERG, Appointee, Big Game Commercial Services Board, Delta Junction, Alaska, said that to be honest, two years ago he did not. He has lived in Delta Junction since 1978 and has served on the fish and game advisory committee for a long time, including being the chairman for the last four years. He worked with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) on the Delta

Linda Hay

From: Jim Pound
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 3:22 PM
To: Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Trevor Fulton; Linda Hay
Subject: Updated map
Attachments: Hb 135 Petersville to mine dist map.docx; HB 135 Petersville-Parks Hwy ref.docx

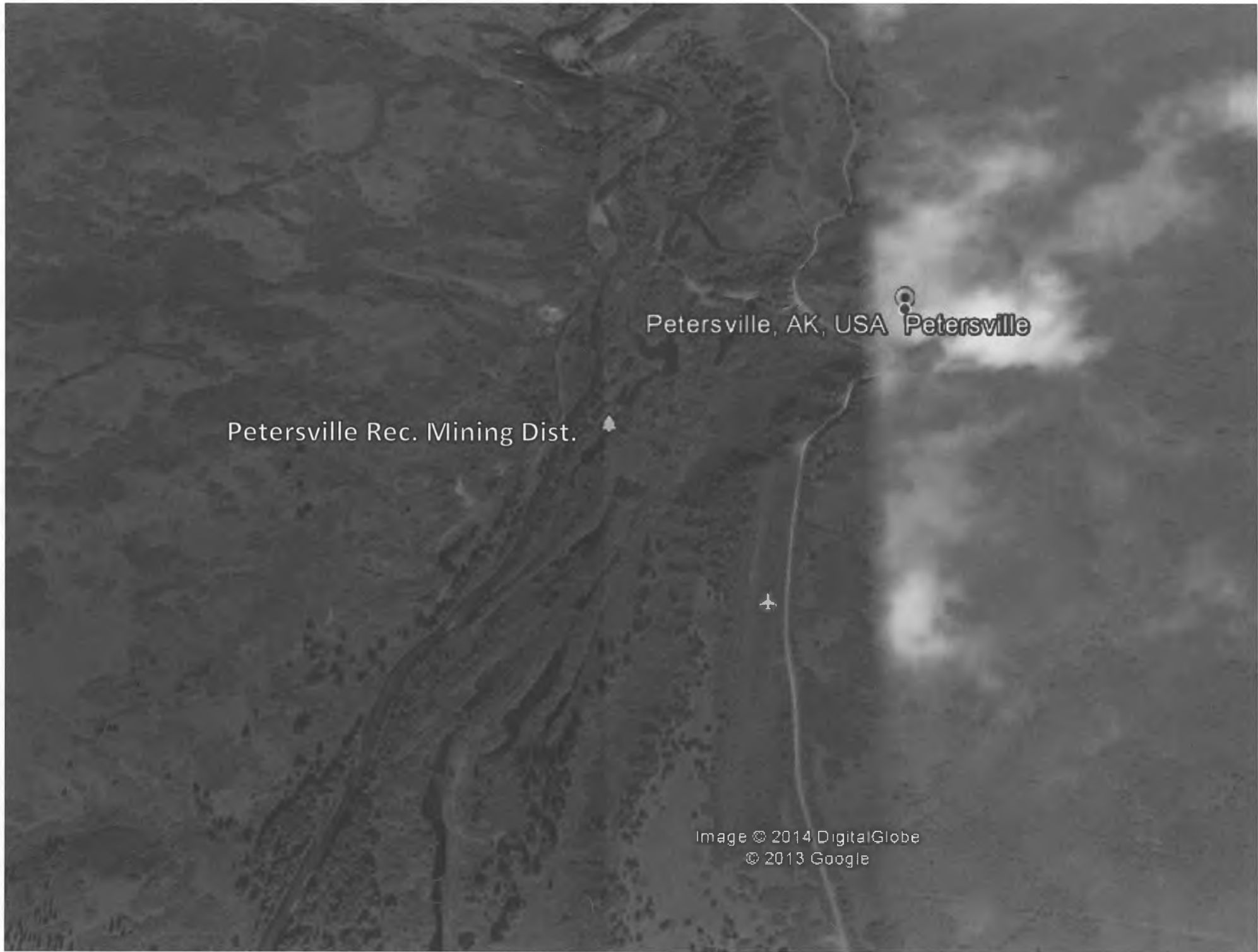
Committee Members,

I realize that the committee work is done and it is sincerely appreciated. There were some questions regarding how far the mining district is away from Petersville. Please see the attached map in association with the color map found in your packet and also included in this email. Regarding the questions of distance according to Google Map: looking at the little bend in the road to the site is 273 yards.

Jim

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message is confidential under AS 24.20.105 and AS 40.25.120(a)(11). The contents of this message may not be disclosed to the public. This e-mail transmission and any documents accompanying it may contain confidential information which is protected by the paralegal-client privilege or other grounds for confidentiality or non-disclosure. The information transmitted is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient of the transmitted information, you are hereby notified that disclosing, copying, distributing, or taking action in reliance to contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, notify the sender and then delete the information.

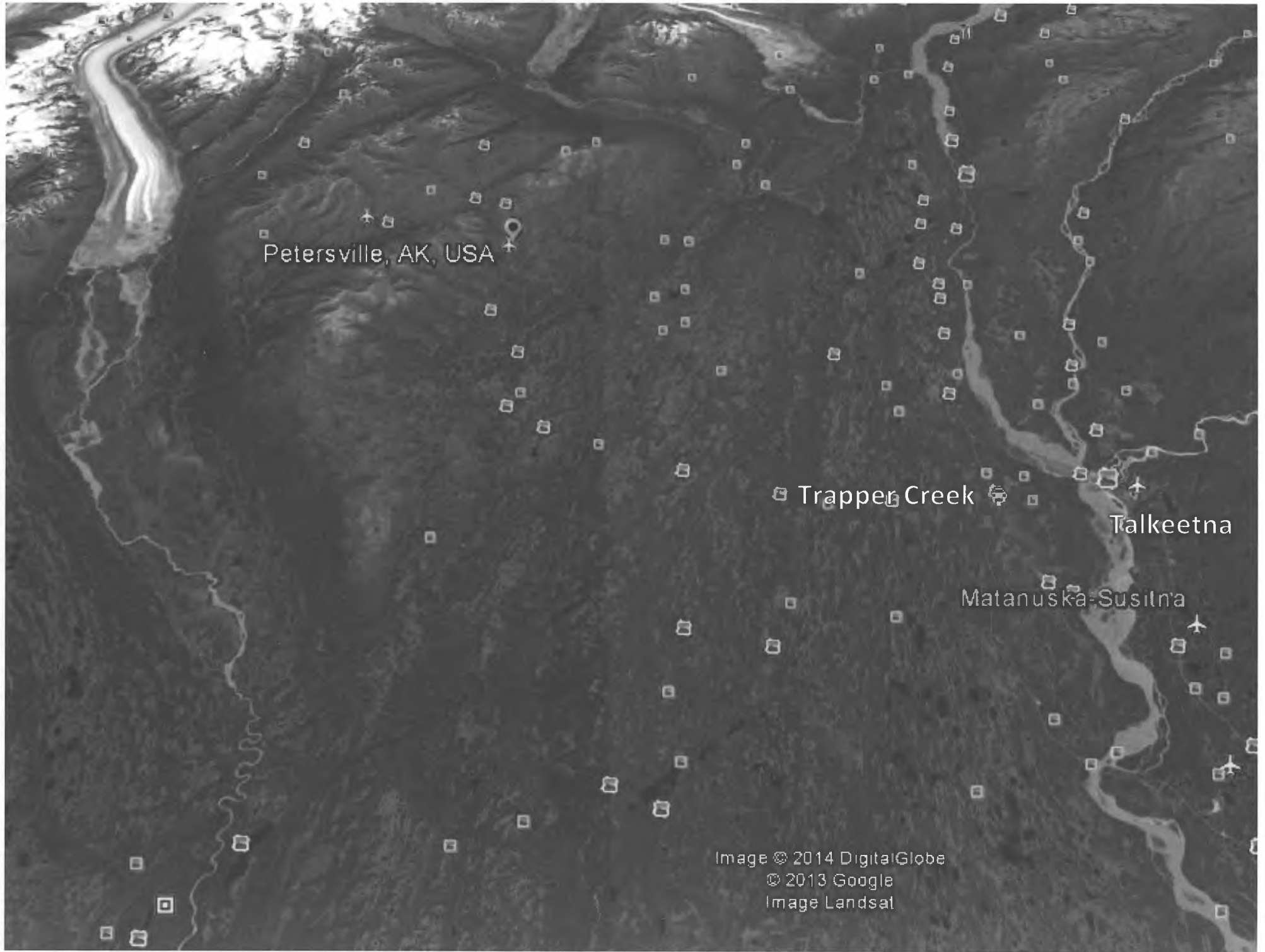
Thank you.



Petersville, AK, USA Petersville

Petersville Rec. Mining Dist.

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Petersville, AK, USA

Trapper Creek

Talkeetna

Matanuska-Susitna

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Image Landsat

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Rec'd
1-21-14
2:14 pm

Interim:

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER

MEMO

To: Rep. Eric Feige
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

Fm: Rep. Wes Keller

Handwritten signature of Wes Keller in blue ink.

Cc: Rep. Dan Saddler

Date: January 21, 2014

Re: Request to hear HB 135 (28-LS0190\A)

Please consider this as a request to schedule HB 135, "An Act relating to the reservation of certain mining claims from all uses incompatible with the purposes for establishing the Petersville Recreational Mining Area" before the House Resources Committee. I have included a packet of information and an electronic version has been sent via email to staff.

HB 135 will allow the state to negotiate with the feds on the transfer of approximately 200 acres of land in the southern portion of the Petersville area of Alaska. It will correct an oversight that took place in 1997 when the district was inadvertently deleted from legislation that designated the Petersville mining district for recreational mining.

Passage of the bill will play a major role in transferring the land to the state. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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Thank you

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