



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

May 2, 2025

United States House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes in strong support of several sections contained in the House Natural Resources reconciliation package released this week.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. AMA's more than 1,400 members come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Alaska's miners are 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.

With regards to mining in Alaska, we strongly support Section 80132, on the Ambler Road in Alaska. The rescission of the Biden Administration's record of decision (ROD), and replacement with the 2020 ROD, is the moral and legal thing to do. Access to the Ambler Mining District is expressly provided for in the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and the Ambler Road would connect an existing road in Alaska to an area known for vast mineral deposits that can significantly enhance domestic production of copper, cobalt, silver, zinc, lead, germanium, and gallium. Inclusion of provisions to raise revenues from the road's use, and the potential to develop millions in new revenues from resource development, makes this Section very appropriate to retain.

Also related to mining, AMA supports Section 80131, which rescinds the Public Land Order (PLO) that withdrew federal lands from mineral entry in the Superior National Forest. While not in Alaska, poor policy like the action taken by the Biden Administration has nationwide impacts and sends a negative message to those considering investment in mining projects in all 50 states.

Because a healthy mining industry in Alaska is boosted by a healthy oil and gas industry in Alaska, AMA is also very supportive of Sections 80121, on leasing of the Coastal Plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and 80122, which returns a responsible energy leasing program for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Growth in Alaska's oil and gas sector has tremendous and wide-spreading benefits to all industries and all Alaskans, from shared infrastructure and workforce, to additional and enhanced energy supply for the state, to increased revenues for Alaska's communities, State of Alaska, and the country.

Finally, AMA wishes to express support for Section 80151, which allows a project sponsor or permittee to pay fees toward the costs of their agency regulation and preparation of National Environmental



Policy Act (NEPA) processes. Reforms to permitting remains the number one needed improvement for all development in Alaska, and this Section is critical to achieve our nation's goals in mining, energy, infrastructure, and so much more.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on the reconciliation package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Skibinski".

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director