



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

January 30, 2024

Submitted electronically via: Senate.Resources@akleg.gov

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

Re: Support for SB 118, "An Act relating to critical and essential minerals and the global energy transition."

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

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) writes in support SB 118, an act relating to critical and essential minerals and the global energy transition.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our 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.

Our country is dependent on a progressively concentrated supply of minerals for things such as renewable energy-producing technologies, batteries, weapons, guidance and communications systems, and numerous consumer products that are important components of our economy and national security. At the federal level, Congress and the Biden Administration have expressed concerns for the United States' growing dependence on foreign sources of critical minerals, particularly from adversarial nations, and have expressed the need to secure our country's supply chains through the annual National Defense Authorization Act and Presidential Executive Orders.

At the state level, the mining industry has historically been a cornerstone of Alaska's economy and funding for its essential services. In 2022 alone, the industry provided 11,400 direct and indirect jobs with a payroll of \$1 billion, providing some of Alaska's highest paying jobs. Though the United States has shown a strong desire to secure our country's mineral supply chains, Alaska is not the only option and we must ensure our state is not overlooked in favor of sources from allied countries. It is imperative that the Alaska government does everything it can to help make our state the most attractive option for our country's critical mineral needs. SB 118 would begin to address this issue by directing the Alaskan government to develop a plan that assesses the state's potential as an alternative domestic source for these minerals and identifying strategies to increase industry investment and identify the impacts of different regulatory frameworks on mineral development.



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MINING



FORESTRY



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RDC urges you to move SB 118 out of Senate Resources in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director

CC:

Senator Kelly Merrick
Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Senator Robert Myers



TOURISM



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MINING



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