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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Miners Association Applauds Passage of Mineral Tenure Legislation

Anchorage, AK - The Alaska Miners Association applauds the passage of SB155, Exploration and Mining Rights, passed by the Alaska Legislature yesterday. SB155 addresses long-standing issues with mining claims statutes that were penalizing hard working, well-intentioned miners. The Legislation was a product of several years of collaboration between AMA, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and members of the Senate.

See the bill here: [Senate Bill 155](#)

The legislation:

- Clarifies qualifications for exploration and mining rights;
- Improves the legal process for miners;
- Makes it easier to locate interest in Alaska lands;
- Allows miners to correct mineral interest locations;
- Establishes a better procedure for statements of annual labor;
- Outlines a “due process” procedure for declaring mining claims invalid; and
- Requires express permission from unpatented federal mining claim holders on state selected lands.

“This bill improves certainty for Alaska’s miners,” said **Senator Click Bishop**, R-Fairbanks, the bill’s sponsor. “No longer do they have to live with uncertainty that their livelihoods will be taken away without due process. This bill provides clear statutory law on how a miner can cure an honest clerical mistake on their statement of facts.”

AMA Executive Director Deantha Crockett celebrated the bill’s passage, stating, “Finally, we have a resolution to the issues that were resulting in heartbreaking loss of claims, investment, and years of hard work by our miners. I am so grateful to the AMA workgroup who poured hours of their time into crafting the right solutions, and for the Legislators that made this bill a priority to fix our broken mineral tenure law. We look forward to working with DNR on corresponding regulations and ensuring certainty for Alaska’s miners moving forward.”

The bill now goes to Governor Mike Dunleavy for his signature, and SB155 will become law.

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