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April 12, 2021

Senator Josh Revak, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: AMA support for SB101: Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA)

Dear Senator Revak,

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to comment in support of SB101, “an Act extending the termination date of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska.”

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

For many years, CACFA has successfully monitored and defended the State’s interests from federal regulation and management actions. Today, Alaska’s need for the CACFA mission is now perhaps greater than ever. Anticipating challenges at the federal level, this year AMA elected to approve the following policy position: *“Oppose federal encroachment on States’ rights, such as the use of preemptive federal veto actions and unnecessary permitting requirements and the purchase of State lands by the federal government which prevents the development of mineral resources.”*

AMA agrees with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee’s 2020 audit outlining the continuing public need for CACFA. We urge the committee to pass SB101, which accomplishes the top priority of extending the Commission’s termination date to 2029, and also to obtain funding to maximize the Commission’s effectiveness at a time it is sorely needed.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director