



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION

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August 7, 2019

Mr. James Johnsen, President
University of Alaska
PO Box 755000
Fairbanks, AK 99775

RE: Support for University of Alaska Mining and Geological Engineering Programs

Dear President Johnsen:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express support for the University of Alaska (UA) Mining and Geological Engineering programs.

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, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

UA's Mining and Geological Engineering programs are unique; in fact, the institution hosts one of only 14 mining programs offered across the country, 13 of which are ABET accredited, including ours. In particular, the programs have tailored instruction on mining in Arctic regions and cold climate engineering. These programs are absolutely critical to the core mission of the University, which is to serve the State of Alaska.

Alaska currently has seven operating large-scale mines, and dozens of exploration projects with high potential to become operating mines. The operations and projects all have a significant and continued need for a skilled workforce, which UA programs have been supplying for many years. Mining in Alaska is estimated to grow 5% per year through 2024, which will likely result in significant growth in employment, government and Alaska Native Corporation revenues, procurement to Alaska businesses, and charitable contributions.

Recognizing an immense need for the UA programs that create and train Alaska's miners, the mining industry has participated in support for UA in a number of ways. The Mining and Geological Engineering Department has at present a research endowment totaling over \$4 million, mines have invested heavily in scholarship funds, and mining companies across Alaska have provided substantial financial contributions, equipment donations, and more. Mining industry contributions have also provided for match funding that is estimated to have brought in five dollars for every dollar spent in external research funding, the most recent being an \$8.1 million U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant received by the



Mineral Industry Research Lab for workforce development.

AMA understands that UA is facing its most significant fiscal challenge in history, and that you and your team face a tremendous task in downsizing administration and consolidating duplicative programs. We ask that you consider that the Mining and Geological Engineering programs are not duplicative programs, generate positive returns for UA, and meet the University's mission of serving the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and please contact me at any time that AMA can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deantha Crockett", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director

Cc: Dan White, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks