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May 8, 2023

Representative Tom McKay, Chair  
House Resources Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
*Submitted via email*

Re: Letter of Support for SB92, State Ownership of Submerged Land

Dear Representative McKay and Members of the House Resources Committee:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to comment in support of SB92, an Act relating to state ownership of submerged land underlying navigable water within the boundaries of federal areas.

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

For many years, AMA has adopted strong policy positions on land management and access for mineral development. Currently, we maintain the following relevant position:

- Maintain and defend State sovereignty over navigable waters as granted at Statehood, while supporting protection of the interests of Alaska Natives in their ANCSA land selections and entitlements.

SB92 could bring clarity to state ownership of submerged lands in federal areas and, it is our longtime position that Alaskans are better equipped to manage Alaska's lands and waters.

We thank Senator Giessel for introducing SB92 and support the legislature's efforts to bring submerged lands under state control. In addition, we stand ready to collaborate on corresponding regulations to ensure management of submerged lands is done in the most optimal manner.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski  
Executive Director