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March 14, 2023

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Click Bishop and Senator Cathy Giessel, Chairs
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Comments submitted via email

Re: AMA Support for SB68, Public Notice for Water Rights

Dear Chairs Bishop, Giessel, and members of the Committee:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to support of SB68 *“An Act relating to a public notice for a sale, appropriation, or removal of water, or for filing a declaration of a right of water, and providing for an effective date”* as written at introduction and in version 33-LS0412\B available as the date of this comment letter.

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.

AMA is in steadfast support of legislation that provides regulatory agencies efficiency and cost savings while still accommodating their mission. The longtime requirement for Alaska’s regulatory agencies to place public notice for water rights in local newspapers was sensible and appropriate when it was established; today it is not.

AMA also supports this legislation for the cost savings that will be realized by the private citizens and permittees who may apply for water rights actions.

We urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass this bill, and will remain supportive in the language contained in SB68 as the date of this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director