



ALASKA MINERS
ASSOCIATION

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March 9, 2021

Senator Mike Shower, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801
Submitted via email

Subject: Support for SB23

Dear Senator Shower:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express support for SB23, an Act relating to proposing and enacting laws by initiative.

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.

AMA supports reform to Alaska's ballot initiative process, and supports SB23 as it ensures that an initiative appearing on the ballot is identical to the initiative that voters read and signed during the signature gathering process. SB23 requires that if the courts find that any section of a proposed initiative does not meet the constitutional criteria, the entire proposal must be rejected. Therefore the new proposed law must restart the signature process with the new language before it can be certified and appear on the ballot. SB23 removes the ability of the courts to rewrite an initiative contrary to the intent of the voters which will result in more carefully written initiative proposals, fewer legal disputes, and ultimately maintain the integrity of the initiative process for Alaska.

Thank you for hearing this important legislation, and we urge members to pass SB23.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director