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February 3, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lisa Murkowski:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide our support for The University of Alaska Fairbanks 2026 proposed earmark request, Advanced regional scale mapping of Alaskan mineral and metal resources.

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's mission is to advocate for and promote responsible mineral development in the state which perfectly aligns with the proposed work this funding will bring. This earmark request is a high priority for advancing new exploration for critical minerals in Alaska to help bolster minerals and mining activities. The remote nature of most of Alaska's mineral deposits (discovered and undiscovered) calls for novel approaches to regional-scale geochemical mapping in prospective mineralized areas.

The proposed work will leverage the work of the United States Geological Survey Earth Mapping Resource Initiative and that of the Alaska Department of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, as well as exploration efforts of the minerals and mining industry. It will add another level of information and data to help narrow the locations of mineral and metal deposits near existing mines and other prospective regions. Alaska needs these new technologies to advance mineral exploration and help the industry make new discoveries. I fully support the funding of this earmark request.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director