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Senator Lisa Murkowski on Mining

Summary

Mining is as important to Alaska's heritage as it is to our economic future. For generations, Alaskan miners have provided a reliable supply of the minerals needed to manufacture modern technologies, develop infrastructure, and back currencies throughout the world. Our experience over the years – in an arctic climate surrounded by natural beauty – combined with a commitment to protect those same blessings has led us to the cutting edge of modern production techniques and environmental standards. Responsible and robust minerals production has paid dividends for Alaska, and Lisa Murkowski has worked to ensure that the industry remains a pillar of Alaska's economy and culture for generations to come.

Mining is an Important Component of Alaska's Economy

The Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage has found that mining supports nearly 12,000 stable, well-paying jobs for Alaskans. As of 2007, Alaska's mining industry generated \$189 million in revenue for state and local government and \$170 million in payments to Alaska Native Corporations. The mining sector has positioned Alaska as a powerful player in the production of globally-traded commodities and it has diversified our economy by facilitating the expansion of road, waterway, power generation, shipping, and pipeline infrastructure.

Lisa Murkowski Defends the Mining Industry

Despite its contributions to our economy, the mining industry in Alaska has come under attack. Opponents of responsible mining, many of which come from the lower 48, and activist agencies in Washington, D.C. have undertaken a flurry of actions to undercut these valuable contributions to Alaska's prosperity and the nation's competitiveness.

Lisa Murkowski has defeated numerous efforts to stymie Alaska's mining industry with higher federal taxes and arbitrary regulations. She has turned back attempts to limit reasonable access for exploration, development, and production. Lisa Murkowski has halted attempts by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to do an end-run on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to validate new mine permits for tailings storage, an effort that allowed the Kensington gold mine in Juneau to open this summer, creating 200 new jobs in Southeast. And she's lead the fight against the EPA imposing economy-wide climate regulations on mining operations, and nearly every other



economic activity, in our state. Lisa Murkowski believes that these types of bureaucratic overreaching must be stopped, and her position as Ranking Member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee uniquely positions her to effectively defend Alaska's mining industry.

Protecting the Existing Mining Law

Lisa Murkowski has worked hard to prevent needlessly restrictive changes in federal mining law. She worked hard this year, and successfully encouraged the Environmental Protection Agency to reissue the water quality permits needed for the Red Dog lead and zinc mine near Kotzebue to continue operations. And she helped convince the U.S. Forest Service to allow the Greens Creek Mine to continue to receive exploration permits in the Tongass National Forest to permit ore reserves to expand, allowing the mine to extend its operations.

Future Economic Opportunities

Recognizing the enormous opportunities in our resource rich state, Lisa Murkowski has long supported efforts to expand the mining industry in Alaska.

Lisa Murkowski introduced legislation this summer to restore Alaska's prominence in the production of Rare Earths Elements and other minerals critical to the advancement of clean energy technologies, modern weapons systems, and high-tech computing. Her bill will provide loan guarantees to firms hoping to open REE mines and require the government to consider setting up a strategic stockpile of REE's to prevent China from cornering the market on the key minerals.

She supports building upon the established mining operations in the state and looks forward to additional progress at Donlin Creek, and Nixon Fork, and many other projects that Alaskans have worked so hard to advance. Lisa Murkowski strongly supports the work of small miners throughout the state as well, and believes their work must be protected from federal intrusion.

Lisa Murkowski continues to advocate for the pursuit of new opportunities in Alaskan minerals production and remains committed to defending the industry against misguided policies.

Lisa Murkowski Delivers for Mining

- Protected permits that allowed the opening of the Kensington Mine in Juneau.
- Advanced legislation to facilitate greater domestic production of rare earths and other critical minerals
- Led the fight against economically-harmful EPA climate regulations under the Clean Air Act
- Sought claims maintenance relief for small miners through the appropriations process.

