

Alaskans Against the **MINING SHUTDOWN**

January 2008

Overview

ALASKANS SHOULD OPPOSE THE ANTI-MINING INITIATIVES

So-Called "Clean Water" Initiatives Would Shutdown Alaskan Mines, Jobs, Revenue and Opportunity

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN EXISTING MINES AND PROHIBIT FUTURE MINES

DNR's Director Of Mining, Land And Water Richard Mylius: "Mining Will Be Impossible" under initiatives. "The third prohibition in 07WATR prohibits the storage or disposal of metallic mineral mining wastes and tailings... All large-scale metallic mineral mines have wastes and tailings... Such wastes and tailings must be disposed of or stored in land or water. If land and water may not be used to store or dispose of wastes and tailings that generate chemicals, mining will be impossible."

(Richard Mylius, Deposition In The Superior Court For The State Of Alaska Third Judicial District At Dillingham, 8/28/07, p. 3-4)

INITIATIVES WOULD ARBITRARILY OVERRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PROCESS

- A decision to prohibit or allow a new or existing mining project should not be made until all necessary environmental studies have been completed.
- Alaskans benefit from a rigorous and open review process.

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN THOUSANDS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE JOBS

- State report finds Alaska's mining industry employed over 3,000 full-time employees and added almost 200 new jobs In 2006.*
- A shutdown of Alaskan mining would affect thousands of jobs because mines and mining employees purchase goods and services from local businesses. **
- Mining workers live in over 100 communities throughout Alaska, often in rural areas where few other jobs are available. **

INITIATIVES WOULD SHUTDOWN SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF REVENUE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES, NATIVE ALASKANS AND THE STATE

- Mining provides \$175 million a year in state government revenue through royalties, rents, fees, And taxes. **
- Mining provides \$14 million a year in local government revenue, including property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes. **
- Mining provides \$170 million a year in payments to Alaska Native Corporations. **
- An estimate by the state of Alaska predicts the initiative could cost the state billions in lost revenues. "One state estimate projected that the initiative could cost the state \$10 billion in lost revenues over the next 30 to 40 years." ***

FOOTNOTES:

* (Elizabeth Bluemink, "State Mineral Industry Value Rises More Than \$1 Billion," Anchorage Daily News, 3/22/07)

** (The McDowell Group, "The Economic Impacts of Alaska's Mining Industry," January 2008)

*** (Stefan Milkowski, "Clean Water Initiatives Aimed At Pebble Could Reach Far Beyond," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 1/2/08)