



# The Juneau Chamber of Commerce

9301 Glacier Hwy, Suite 110 • Juneau AK 99801

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June 7, 2017

Honorable Mayor Ken Koelsch, and Assembly  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 South Seward  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Changes to CBJ Mining Ordinance

Dear Mayor Koelsch and Assembly;

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Assembly was recently approached by a group of Juneau citizens with a proposal to update and modernize Article 1 of Chapter 49.65 of CBJ code, otherwise known as the mining ordinance. The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support for this proposal and urge the Assembly to commence the robust public process that will be required to modernize the mining ordinance.

Mining is identified in the Juneau Economic Development Plan as a key economic pillar in the community. Over 70% of Juneau households surveyed for that plan identified supporting additional mining development as important to economic development and the plan encourages bringing more high-wage mining families to Juneau.

A community with a growing economy that can be helped by mining prospects will have more revenue per person to serve every year. With a growing economy, local households, businesses, charities, school districts, our municipality and hospital should be likely to have more revenue to serve the community. Over time our city could have the additional resources to make Juneau a better community.

Unfortunately, the existing language in the mining ordinance contains duplicative and onerous requirements in the urban mining district that are a deterrent to attracting additional mining development. Given that the CBJ owns significant mineral rights within the urban mining district it is critical that modernization of the mining ordinance proceed in order to ensure that economic development on both public and private lands in Juneau is not unnecessarily hindered.

It is important to note that this proposal does not seek to reduce public process but rather it narrows the scope of the CBJ's review to those areas not covered by federal or state laws and regulations. All major federal and state permits required are subject to public comment and process and the CBJ would still retain permitting

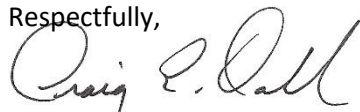
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info@juneauchamber.com • www.JuneauChamber.com

oversite and a local veto through the conditional use permit process. In fact, the proposal would increase the transparency of the public process by eliminating the provisions of the current ordinance that allow public officials to determine the fate of a proposed mining project behind closed doors without definitive criteria. We believe that modernizing the mining ordinance will balance local control with economic development opportunities.

The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce thanks the Assembly for taking up this proposal and we look forward to participating in the public process required to modernize the mining ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber's recommendations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig E. Dahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Craig E. Dahl  
Executive Director  
Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce