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June 7, 2017

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Mayor Koelsch and Members of the Assembly
City and Borough of Juneau
155 S. Seward St.
Juneau, AK 99801
BoroughAssembly@juneau.org

Dear Mayor Koelsch and Members of the Assembly,

Assembly Member Weldon has proposed amending the Mining Ordinance (Article 1 of Chapter 49.65 of the CBJ code) to modernize it by making it more workable and maintaining environmental protections for our community. The First Things First Alaska Foundation strongly supports this initiative.

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.

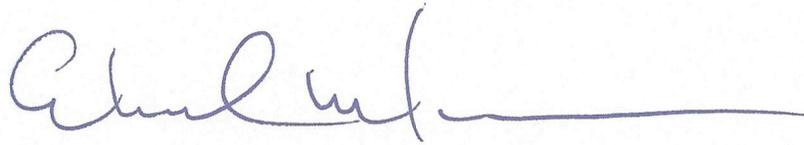
Unfortunately, the current ordinance contains duplication and sequencing of actions that preclude any practical business making a serious proposal to develop prospects in the urban mining district. With the municipality owning significant mineral rights within the urban mining district, it is critical that the process required of mining development be modernized in order to open an opportunity to investment on both public and private land.

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

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The proposal before you for consideration will eliminate duplication and reviews that are outside the public process. It maintains the requirements that mines secure federal and state permits as well as the need for a conditional use permit through the CBJ Planning Commission. The proposed ordinance will balance local control with economic development opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil MacKinnon", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Neil MacKinnon
Board President