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## 2025 FEDERAL ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR THE ALASKA MINING INDUSTRY

### Critical Priorities

#### Mining in America

Immediately designate White House level resources within the National Economic Council to elevate, prioritize, and coordinate sound domestic mining policy. Prioritize Alaska's vast mineral resources and make the state a leading jurisdiction to increase mining in America.

#### Permitting Reform

Implement NEPA reforms that provide certainty to project proponents and stakeholders including strict adherence to the scope of the reviews and timelines dictated by Congress. Reform litigation practices to shorten appeal timelines and provide clear sideboards to the scope of litigation against proposed projects and remedies available. Federal agencies must be adequately resourced to efficiently and durably permit large projects that provide a steady supply of minerals and grow our economy.

#### Critical and Essential Minerals

Support federal incentives for domestic mineral production and processing, and ensure they are applicable to all minerals regardless of the status of the various critical mineral and material lists.

#### Federal Land Management and Access

Consistent with federal law, including ANILCA, ANCSA, Alaska Statehood Act, and FLPMA, ensure access to and across all federal lands to maintain multiple use as the priority and primary principle of land management.

Define withdrawals in ANILCA 1326 as follows: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the word "withdrawal(s)" as applied in this Section shall be defined and construed to mean any prohibition or restriction on the development and use of the resources on and within the public lands, including without limitation, lands managed by NPS, FWS, BLM, USFS, not in effect on December 3, 1980.

Oppose all federal actions (RMPs, ACECs, PLOs, etc.) that have cumulative effect of closing Alaska lands to resource development and/or multiple use. Revise recent restrictive land management plans and related decisions that unnecessarily restrict mineral exploration and access.

Exempt the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule. Prohibit use of USFS Forest Plan amendments that close or restrict Alaska National Forest lands to resource development or multiple use.

#### Water Policy

Require all actions, including Clean Water Act regulations, comply with the Sackett decision.

Manage wetlands through flexible mitigation programs tailored to Alaska's unique environment.

Streamline process for EPA approval of State water quality standards proposals, including adoption of scientifically-supportable water quality standards developed using site-specific criteria in permitting decisions.

Encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to complete timely, meaningful, and constructive comments when replying to USACE on Alaska Clean Water Act Section 404 Public Notices.

Exercise any vetoes within 90 days of the issuance of a Record of Decision. Seek legislation to reduce the time during which EPA can issue a Clean Water Act Section 404c veto to a short period of time after the Corps of Engineers issues a Record of Decision.



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## **Permitting and Land Management Principles**

- Limit ESA listings and critical habitat designations to those with established and rigorous scientific justification and complete cost-benefit analyses.
- Rescind BLM's Conservation and Landscape Health rule.
- Finalize land conveyances to the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Corporations and rescind all federal withdrawals and public land orders established by the Secretary of Interior under ANCSA §17 (d)(1) and ANILCA.
- Reauthorize the Alaska Land Use Council.
- Require evaluation of the mineral potential in any area subject to federal land use planning. Require USGS to fulfill its ANILCA mineral reporting and assessment mandates.
- Reinstate USACE's Appendix C procedures relating to NHPA Section 106.
- Ensure transboundary mining issues are addressed through cooperation between the State of Alaska and neighboring Canadian provincial and territorial governments.
- Ensure federal agencies engage in land and resource management planning and decision making consistent with ANILCA, including prohibiting the designation of wilderness-like lands and similar withdrawals of lands or waters within and surrounding Alaska.
- Amend Title XI to require the recommendation of transportation and utility systems, including roads and infrastructure corridors, to the President and facilitates the issuance of authorizations and rights of way.

