

Ballot Measure 4

Bill Providing For Regulation Of Water Quality

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Don't be deceived by the title of this measure. Ballot Measure 4 is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is a serious threat to Alaska's economy. If passed, it could:

- result in the loss of thousands of mining and related-industry jobs across Alaska;
- undermine economic opportunity in the rural areas of our state; and
- force the shutdown of existing mines and prevent new mines in the future.

Measure 4 replaces a thorough fact-based regulatory review process with an arbitrary, untested process - Vote NO.

The anti-mining initiatives ignore that the State of Alaska has spent years developing a comprehensive environmental policy. Alaskans agree that protecting our environment should be a top priority. The state and federal review process now in place is based on science and ensures that no permitting decision is made until all the environmental studies are completed and reviewed by independent, qualified professionals. We have strict procedures that ensure air, water, fish, and human health are protected; this process is open, transparent and fair, so that the interests of ALL Alaskans are served. Measure 4 throws all of this out the window.

Measure 4 is a serious threat to Alaska's economy - Vote NO.

Today mining is an important contributor to Alaska's diverse economy and provides needed jobs and opportunity, especially in rural Alaska where jobs are scarce. Mining directly benefits Alaska through:

- over 5,500 direct and indirect jobs
- nearly \$200 million per year in state and local tax revenue
- billions of dollars in income and investment from existing mines and future developments over coming decades.

Measure 4 hurts rural and urban communities - Vote NO.

A damaged mining industry will hit hardest in rural communities where mining brings high-paying jobs and revenue for some of the state's poorest areas, not to mention the significant ripple effects on the overall economy and the many businesses in regional centers providing support services to mining.

Measure 4 is part of a deceptive effort by anti-mining activists to threaten the future of mining in Alaska - Vote NO.

Ballot Measure 4 is a drastic, deceptive and poorly worded initiative. Even as this pamphlet is being written, Ballot Measure 4 is mired in legal challenges before the Alaska Supreme Court and serious questions remain as to what the true effects of the measure will be. At worst, Ballot Measure 4 would cause a mining shutdown which would be felt in homes, businesses and communities across the State. In the alternative, it will generate years of expensive lawsuits, unnecessary red tape, and costly bureaucracy that will threaten a growing industry, and create a cloud of uncertainty over new regulations that will hinder economic growth with little potential benefit. Alaska's regulations already go to great lengths to protect human health and salmon.

VOTE NO on Measure 4

Please oppose this attack on mining in Alaska and Vote No. This measure is an arbitrary, costly and misguided way to make policies that affect the livelihoods of thousands of Alaskans.

Marie Greene, President of NANA Regional Corporation
Kotzebue, Alaska

Jim Whitaker, Mayor
Fairbanks, Alaska

Cynthia Toohey, Chair of Alaskans Against the Mining Shutdown
Anchorage, Alaska