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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement for House Bill 166

University Mining Extension Program

Mining is a growing industry. Even with low mineral prices, the level of exploration and development of our mineral resources has been very positive. HB 166 was introduced to emphasize the important role mining extension plays as the primary link between the technical expertise of the University, the mining industry and the general public

HB 166 will update old statutes and recreate the new Division of Mineral Exploration, Mining, and Mining Extension under the Alaska Cooperative Extension Program at the University of Alaska. This new division will be charged with providing mining and prospecting information to miners and the general public. Also, the rehabilitated division will be a training resource for the mining industry and our schools.

With the continued need to develop our natural resources to ensure a stable economy, I believe we must start with our most important resource – our people. HB 166 updates ancient statutes and restates the importance of having programs at our University that creates the jobs of our states future while providing the technical expertise for those creating wealth now.