

# ALASKA Journal of Commerce

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## **Letter to the editor**

There's no question that our mining laws need some reform, but the proposal now being considered in the Congress is the wrong approach that will hurt miners, their families, and our national security. HR 2262, as written, would levy a whopping 8 percent royalty on new hardrock mining operations, and a new retroactive 4 percent royalty on existing operations. That means American minerals and mining operations would be the highest taxed in the world. The result would be to export good paying mining jobs to other countries, increase our dependence on imported minerals, and make American minerals uncompetitive on the world market.

We need a common sense mining law that rewards taxpayers fairly and that doesn't penalize hardrock miners and export valuable mining jobs.

Congress should reject HR 2262 until significant changes can be made that achieve the goals of providing a fair return to taxpayers for mining use of federal lands, keep our mining jobs at home, and allow our American hardrock mining industry to grow, and continue to provide the minerals America needs.

**Chris Hall**, Anchorage