



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

July 25, 2022

Dear Alaska Native Corporation Representative:

The Department of the Interior has launched an interagency working group on reforming hardrock mining laws, regulations, and permitting policies in the United States. The group will help support President Biden's vision for a whole-of-government effort to promote the sustainable and responsible domestic production of critical minerals. At each step, the group is committed to hearing from leaders of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Alaska Native Corporation representatives. Considering the legacy of the impacts of mining on many Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Alaska Native Corporations, the protection of treaty rights, sacred sites, and upholding the trust responsibility are important parts of this work.

Hardrock mining on public lands — which includes gold, silver, copper, uranium, lithium, and nearly all critical minerals — is still governed by the General Mining Law of 1872. The working group will make recommendations for updates and reforms necessary to ensure that new exploration and production meets strong environmental and Tribal engagement standards during all stages of mine development, from initial exploration through reclamation, while improving the efficiency and outcomes of the permitting process, consistent with the newly released Biden-Harris Administration's Fundamental Principles for Domestic Mining Reform.

We are greatly interested in input from Alaska Native Corporations and are hosting the following **listening session in August**:

Date	Time	Location
Friday, August 19, 2022	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. AKDT	<a href="https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1603654006">https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1603654006</a> or Dial in #: # 1-669-254-5252 Meeting ID: 160 365 4006 Passcode: 011423

If you have any written input you would like to provide, please send to [MiningReform@ios.doi.gov](mailto:MiningReform@ios.doi.gov), or submit comments to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by September 15 to ensure timely consideration.

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If you have any questions, please contact, Joaquin Gallegos, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at [joaquin\\_gallegos@ios.doi.gov](mailto:joaquin_gallegos@ios.doi.gov), or Alexandra Sanchez, Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management at [Alexandra-Sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Alexandra-Sanchez@ios.doi.gov).

Sincerely,

**Steven**  
**Feldgus**

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by Steven Feldgus  
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Steve Feldgus

Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management