

I made my first policy announcement at the annual meeting of the Alaska Miners Association. I did this on purpose because I wanted everyone to know, especially the miners, that Alaska is open for business.

I want new investment in Alaska and I want new investment in Alaska's mining industry – from exploration to production.

If you are interested in investing in Alaska's mining industry, my message is clear. Do it. I am eager to meet with or speak with anyone considering a significant investment in Alaska. I am personally committed to expanding Alaska's mining economy.

We have a robust, stable permitting system. Every project in Alaska is going to get a fair shake. It will have the benefit of a fair, unbiased process based upon sound science, technical data and engineering.

I have assembled a great team to accomplish this. My administration and commissioners are committed to responsibly developing Alaska's resources for the benefit of Alaskans.

If you want to work, I want to find an opportunity to make it happen. But to get there, it requires investment and people willing to take this chance on Alaska. We are rich in mineral potential.

For me, mining is personal. I grew up around mining. My daughters work for the Red Dog Mine in Northwest Alaska. I have seen firsthand how important this industry is to a healthy and robust economy. Mining creates jobs, good paying jobs in Alaska. And by creating more opportunities for individuals we can reduce dependence on government. It is a central tenet of my vision for getting Alaska's economy back on track.