



Alaska State Legislature

120 4th St., State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Mr. Erwin Gianchandani
Assistant Director Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships
Regional Innovation Engines Program
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Monday, October 13, 2025

Dear Mr. Gianchandani,

We are excited that the University of Alaska's proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Engines program for the NSF Engine: Alaska Critical Mineral Accelerator has advanced to the final stage of review!

As leadership of the Alaska State Senate, we express our complete support for NSF's selection of UAF's Critical Mineral Accelerator to capitalize on the significant mineral resources Alaska can provide for America.

We recognize that our continued financial support of UAF's critical minerals program underscores our words. As leadership of the Alaska Senate, we support and continue to advocate for the annual funding of the University of Alaska's minerals programs. We will work to assure that funding continues to the UAF NSF Engine program, as UAF works with the NSF.

We recognize that an NSF Engines award would reinforce the state's position as a national center for critical minerals research, innovation, development, and production. Outcomes from this research could result in new high-paying American jobs, greater economic development, additional mineral production, and national recognition of the importance of Alaska's mineral resources to the country's economic and national security.

Of significant importance is America's security in accessing the 49 of the 50 minerals in Alaska that the U.S. Geological Survey deems critical to the U.S. economy and national security. Alaska is increasingly being recognized as a key to breaking America's dependence on foreign suppliers for the minerals and metals vital to the nation's economy and security. The latest Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies ranked Alaska as the richest jurisdiction in the world for mineral potential.

The state of Alaska is reinforcing our support of this effort as the first state to have entered into a FAST-41 agreement (governed by Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) with the federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (PISC). This partnership will streamline the review



Alaska State Legislature

120 4th St., State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

and permitting of critical mineral mines and other large infrastructure projects in the state to accelerate development and serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

Thank you for your consideration during this final selection process.

Sincerely,

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink.

Senate President Gary Stevens

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senate Majority Leader Cathy Giessel

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Bill Wielechowski

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Lyman Hoffman

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Donny Olson

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Bert Stedman

A cursive signature in blue ink.

Senator Kelly Merrick