



February 2, 2017

Mr. Donald Benton
White House Liaison
Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Mail Code: 110A
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Request for 120-day extension of comment period relating to proposed “Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA § 108(b) for Classes of Facilities in the Hardrock Mining Industry,” 82 Fed. Reg. 3388 (Jan. 11, 2017).

Dear Mr. Benton:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) would like to express its support for a 120-day extension, or until July 10, 2017, to the 60-day public comment period currently established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its proposal, “Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA § 108(b) for Classes of Facilities in the Hardrock Mining Industry,” which was published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 3388).

The mission of the Alaska Chamber is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. We represent hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across Alaska. It is vital for our members impacted by any proposed rules be given adequate time to review those rules and provide their comments on the ramifications of its implementation.

The EPA’s proposed rule is lengthy and complex. After it is all said and done there are more than 75,000 pages of documentation that one must look through to review the proposed rule and all the background documents it references. When similarly complex proposed rules have been introduced the EPA has provided the public with anywhere from 165 days to comment (the Clean Power Plan rule) to over 200 days (Waters of the United States rule).

Certainly, more than 60 days are required to give the businesses and the public the necessary time to review all the materials provided and submit their comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO