

**STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM WAUGAMAN, DIRECTOR, ALASKA
MINERS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. WAUGAMAN. Thank you, sir. Mr. Chairman, my name is William Waugaman, a director of the Alaska Miners Association, the chairman of the Surface Mining Committee, also manager of the Usibelli Mining Co., Fairbanks.

I appear before you today to testify in opposition to Senate bill 3132. My testimony here has been not written by myself. It was written by the directors of the Alaska Miners Association. However, I certainly agree with it wholeheartedly.

The Alaska Miners Association is adamantly opposed to Federal control of the mining industry regardless of the names and terminology used. This bill, S. 3132, while it claims to vest the regulation of surface mining in the various States, is a thinly veiled reach for Federal control of all surface mines on the flimsy excuse that the materials so mined are commerce.

This law will completely destroy our present system of private ownership along with the free enjoyment and use of private lands by individuals. The mere ownership and mining are made black villains and made to appear against the public interest even though section 3(a) states to the contrary.

In our State, which contains 365,481,600 acres of land and 9,814,000 acres of inland water, approximately 12,300 acres of land have been disturbed by placer, strip, or open-pit mining.

In addition to producing more than \$1½ billion worth of mineral wealth, this "disturbed" land was transformed from unoccupied unusable desolate muskeg, tundra, and swamp-permafrost areas into well drained, usable, and productive ground.

For example, prime building ground around our major cities is ground that has been used for mining. At Nome, the airport, FAA buildings and Beltz Vocational School are all located on worked-out placer ground because it is ideally suited for the erection of permanent community improvements. Many Government buildings placed on the surrounding permafrost have been damaged beyond repair by frost heaving and melting of the permafrost.

Near Fairbanks the satellite tracking station is built in a valley on worked-out placer ground because reliable foundations were needed.

At Juneau, our State capital, most of the city is built on mine tailings. All of our roads and airfields are built from tailings or open gravel pits. I could go on and on with examples.

We have adequate laws in our State for the regulation of surface mining and our industry cannot stand the added weight of the dead hand of the Federal Government enforcement.

Mineral exploration is increasing in our State. Technology and better methods are just now making it worthwhile for production companies to extensively explore our State in the hope of establishing new mines which will add to our national wealth.

Mining unlike government must be able to show a profit. Mineral commodities are competitive on a worldwide basis. I would like to call your attention to the statements of Senator Gruening in the Congressional Record of March 22, 1968, in which it is pointed out