

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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For Immediate Release: October 4, 2005

## **Weyhrauch Supports State of Alaska's Intervention in Kensington Mine Lawsuit**

(Juneau) - Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch (R – Juneau) announced today he strongly favors the State of Alaska's intervention in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups challenging permits issued to the Kensington Gold Mine in Juneau. Rep. Weyhrauch endorses the Kensington and feels it will be a substantial boost to the Northern Southeast region.

"I strongly support the Governor's and the State's intervention in this case on behalf of the project," said Rep. Weyhrauch. "The Southeast Conference supports this mine and the State's intervention. This last session, none of the Senators or Representatives from Southeast Alaska opposed House Concurrent Resolution 10, which supported development of the Kensington Mine. This project has demonstrated that it can proceed in an environmentally responsible manner and gained the support of the United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and the Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance. This is not a tradeoff between good jobs and or negative environmental impacts. This mine can be developed in an environmentally responsible manner and at the same time greatly contribute to our communities."

Rep. Weyhrauch noted the success of the Greens Creek Mine on nearby Admiralty Island. The Kensington Mine received all the necessary permits to begin construction in 2005 and more than 180 people are now working on the project. Southeast Alaska environmental groups filed the lawsuit in September. The Mine will employ 300 workers during construction and provide an estimated payroll of \$16 million. Once underway it will provide 225 employees to our local economies including corporate income taxes in addition to generating local tax revenue.

For more information, contact Terry Harvey (907) 465-3744

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