

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Senator Cathy Giessel Senate District P

September 6, 2011

Russell Kirkham  
Alaska Depart. Of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land and Water  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Suite 900D  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[Russell.kirkham@alaska.gov](mailto:Russell.kirkham@alaska.gov)

Re: Wishbone Hill Coal Permit Renewal (01-89-796 & 02-89-796)

Dear Mr. Kirkham,

I am writing in support of the Wishbone Hill Coal Permit Renewal.

There are two fundamental reasons for my support.

First: The Coal Regulatory Program in place in the Division of Mining, Land & Water is a sound one that protects the environment. The standards are rigorous and inspections are conducted monthly. In addition, reclamation provisions must be secured before beginning mining. Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc, the operator proposing Wishbone Hill, has a well-established record of mining safety and environmental protection.

Second: The potential socioeconomic benefits from the proposed Wishbone Hill Coal mine are significant for the Mat-Su Valley. There are estimated to be 93 new direct jobs, with high salaries of \$70,000-90,000 per year. This just scratches the surface of other indirect jobs and financial impact. Tax revenues will benefit the area schools and public safety. Traffic will, of course, increase, but the plan is for the coal carrying trucks to operate during night hours, with covered loads. (ISER study, June, 2010)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for the Wishbone Hill Coal Permit renewal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Giessel".  
Senator Cathy Giessel  
State Senate District P