

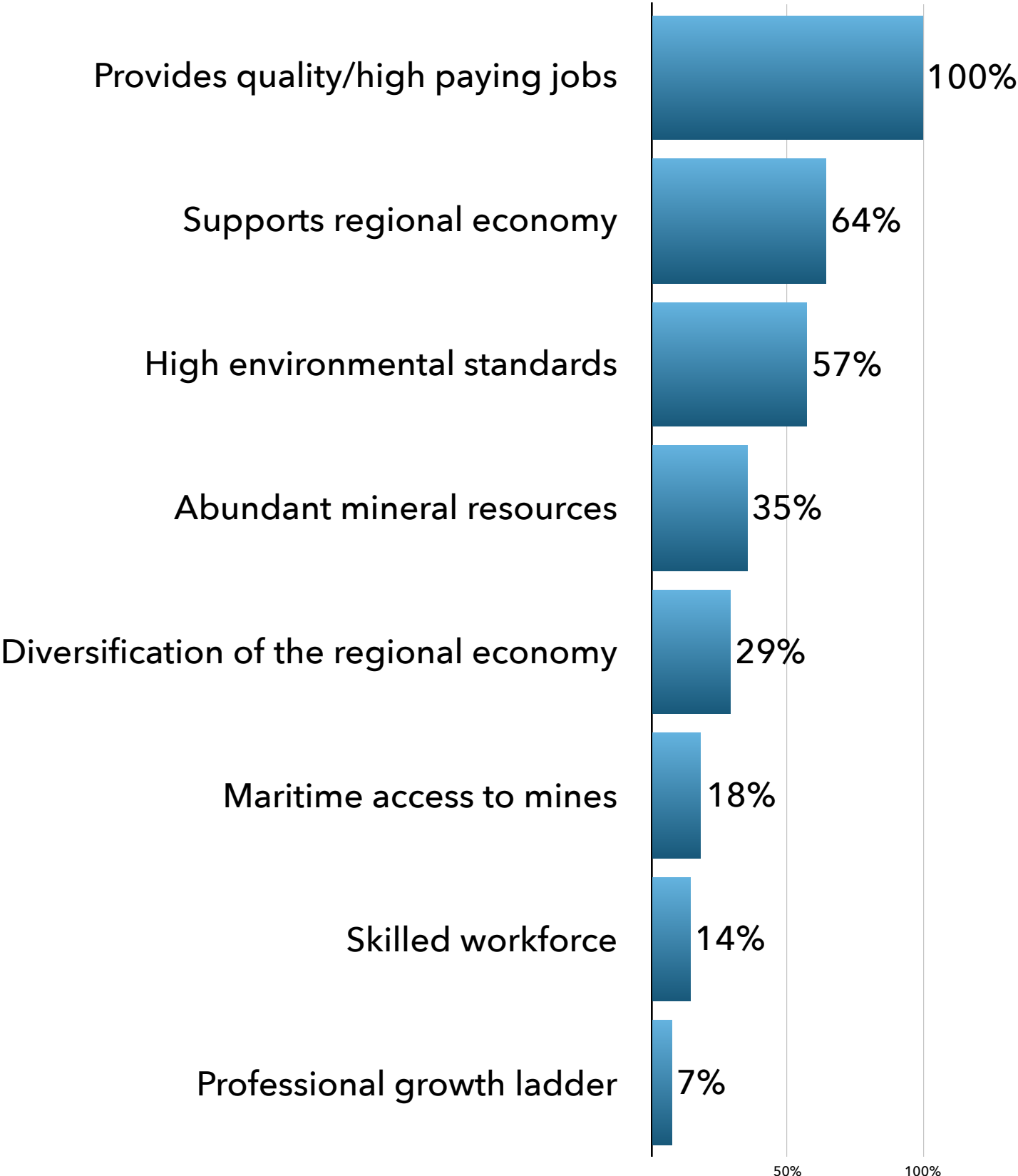
A smiling woman wearing an orange helmet with a logo, blue safety glasses, a blue jacket with a pink collar, and a red safety vest with reflective yellow-green stripes. She is holding a long wooden handle over her shoulder. The background shows a rugged mountain range with patches of snow under a clear blue sky.

Southeast Mining SWOT

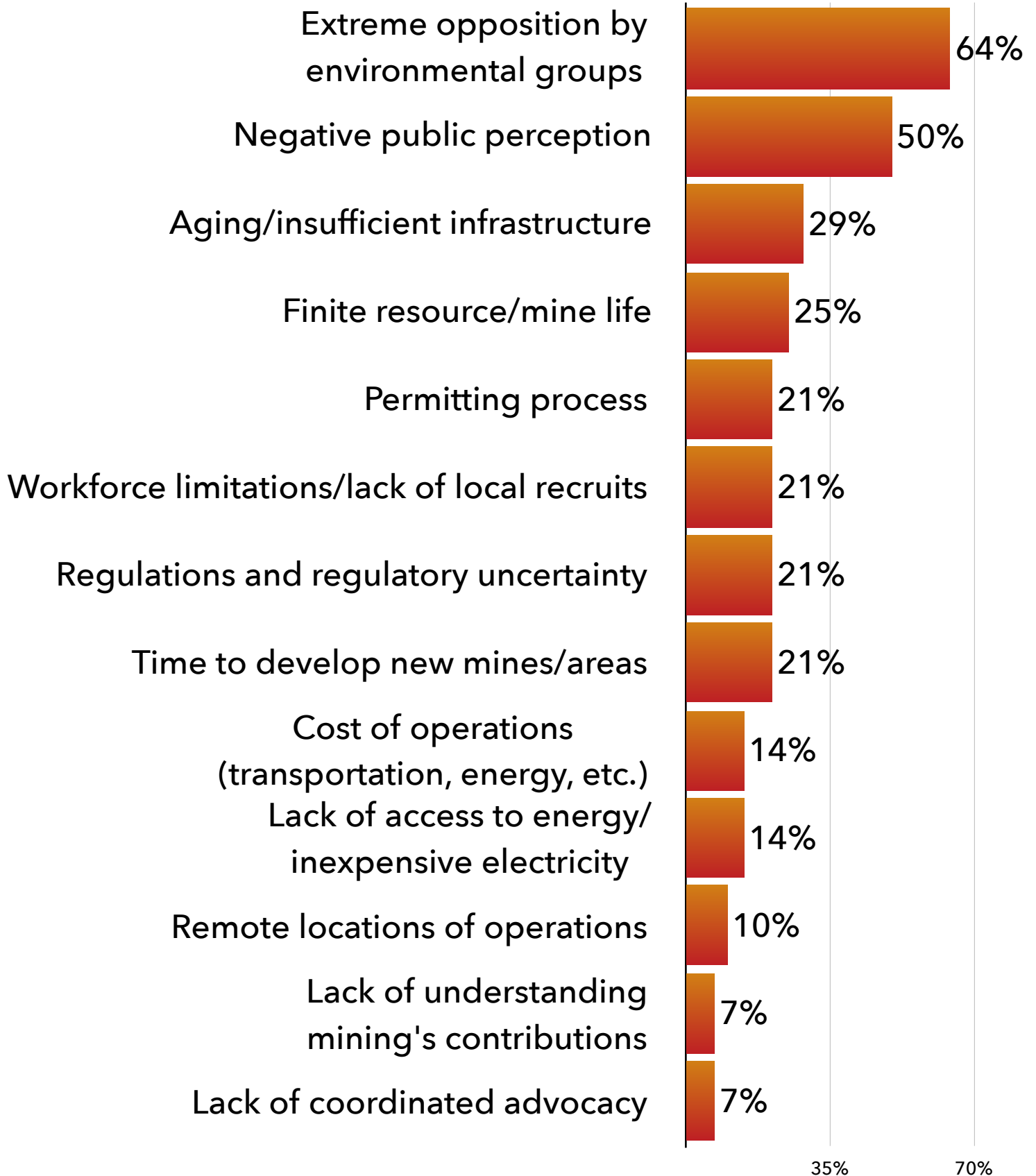
SOUTHEAST MINING SWOT SUMMARY

The Southeast Alaska mining SWOT analysis was conducted by 20 members of the Southeast Conference Mining Industry Committee in a series of meetings on February 4th and May 13 2020. Participants were asked to develop key elements, and then prioritize by individually choosing the top three items that they felt were most representative of regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The results of this exercise are presented on the following pages.

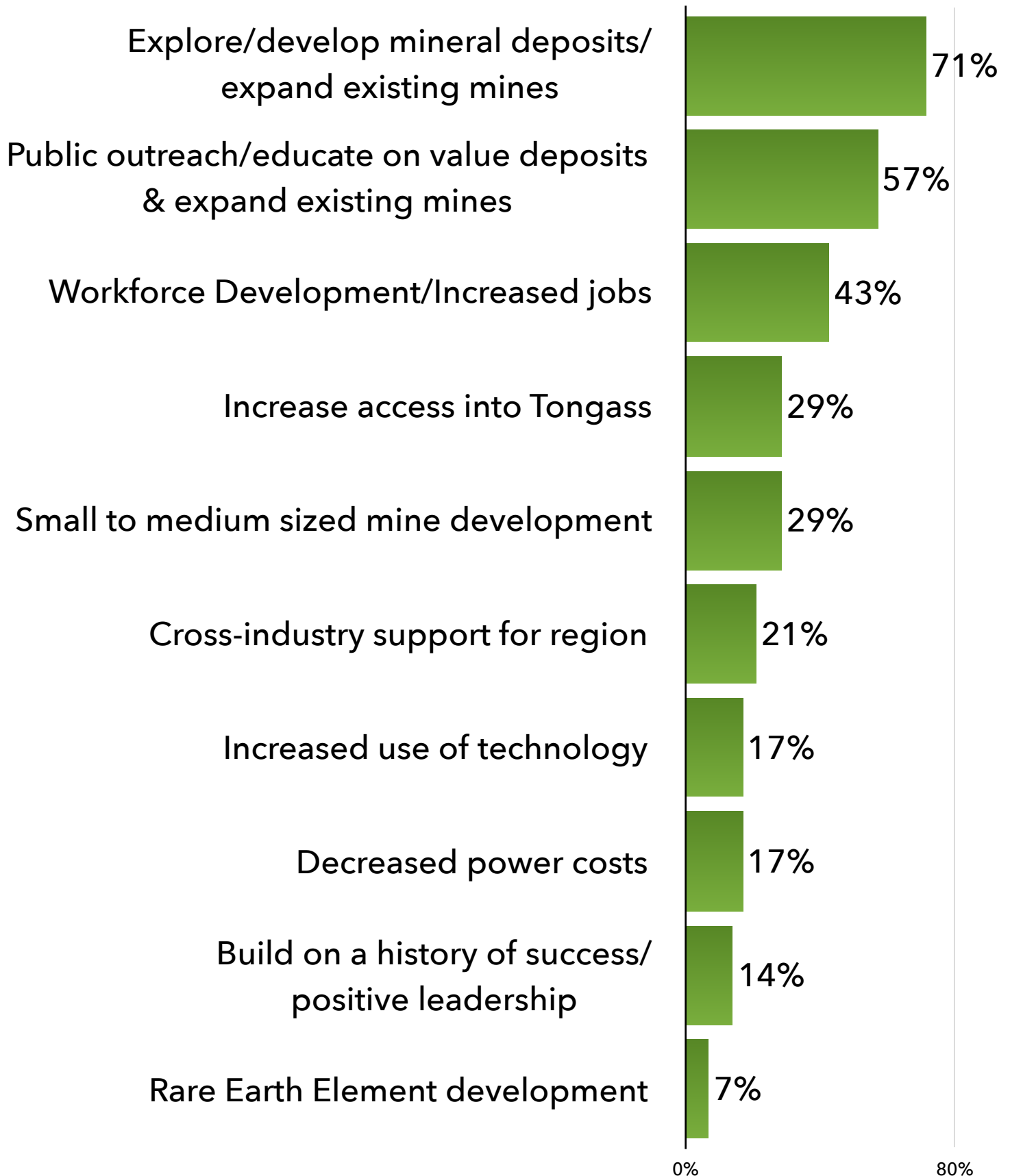
Mining Strengths



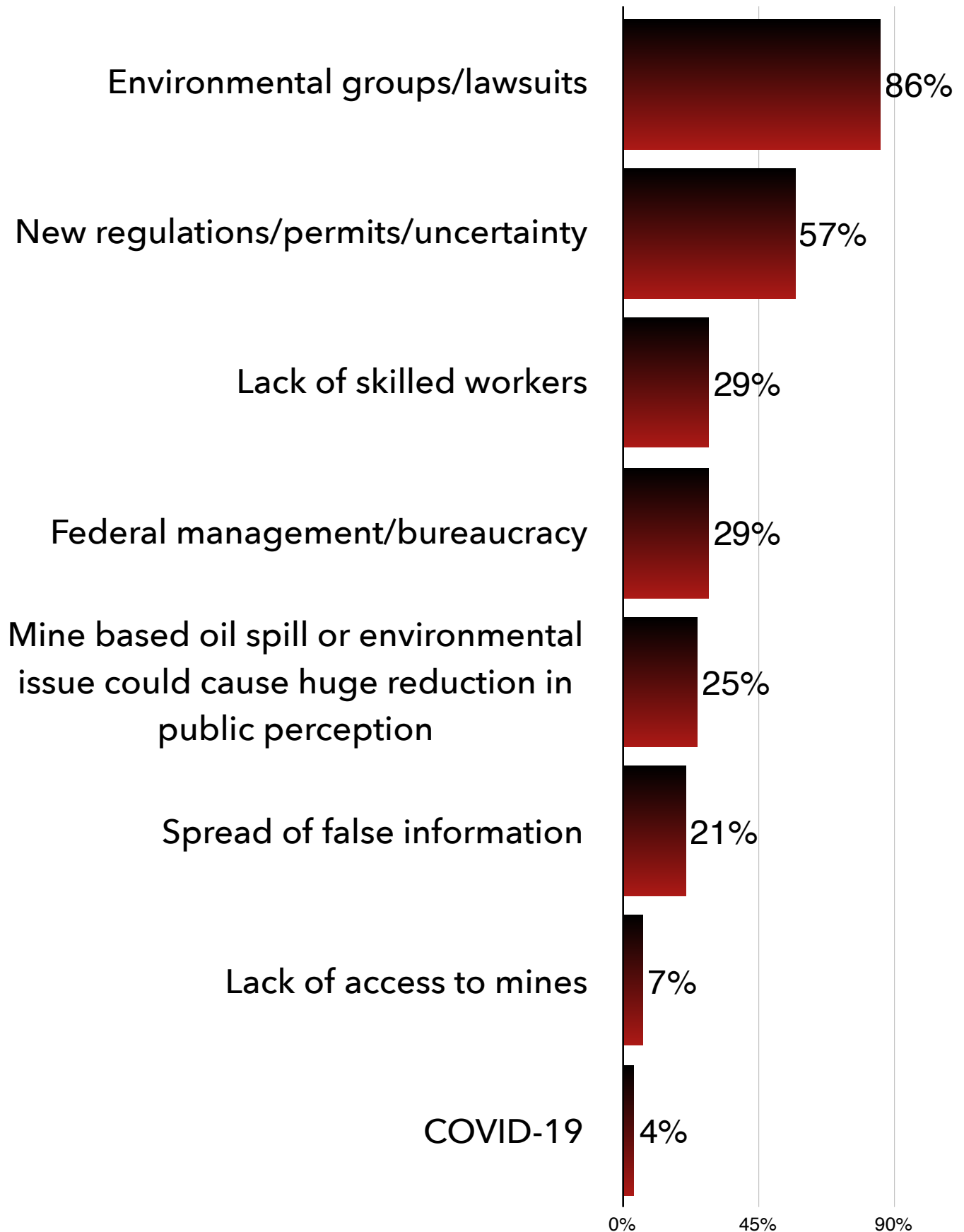
Mining Weaknesses



Mining Opportunities



Mining Threats





Mining and Exploration Initiatives

+

Southeast Conference

Mid-Session Summit 2021

Introduction

The Southeast Alaska Mining initiatives were developed by 20 members of the Southeast Conference Mining Industry Committee in a series of meetings in 2020.

1. Proactively support mining operations and mineral exploration projects
2. Support effort to increase access to minerals and energy sources for mining on state and federal lands
3. Mining and Exploration Workforce Development
4. Preserve access to reliable, year-round transportation for miners living in rural Southeast Alaska
5. Attract mining capital
6. Create a more stable regulatory environment
7. Review and promote an understanding of decades of land use planning
8. Support research and promotion of regional mineral prospects and deposits

Mining and Exploration Initiatives Overview

1

Proactively support mining operations and mineral exploration projects



- + Mining is a key economic driver in the region, and the abundance of minerals is a natural asset.
- + It is an industry with a high multiplier because of the high wages, high property taxes, high local spending.

1

Proactively support mining operations and mineral exploration projects

Support and promote

Support and promote responsible resource development and management as part of an economically and environmentally sustainable Southeast.

Increase

Increase awareness of the high bar for environmental operations regional mining operations adhere to in order to counter impression that mining has an environmental cost.

Promote

Promote a better understanding of environmental plans that are being followed - for both operating and future mines.

Tell

Tell the story of the Southeast Alaska mining industry as it exists today. Work to combat misinformation promulgated on the regional, state, and national levels.

Promote

Promote an understanding of the community benefits of mining in the region, and the uses of regional minerals.

2

Support effort to increase access to minerals and energy sources for mining on state and federal lands

Energy and access are two of the major obstacles to mining development

- + Ensure that federal lands in Southeast Alaska are developable and accessible.
- + Continuing support for access for the mining industry, and interties and hydroelectricity in the Tongass.
- + Increase access and infrastructure development.
- + While “reasonable” access is allowed for mining in IRAs, mining companies often need road access to get heavy equipment from tidewater to a Project site or to otherwise proceed with economically exploring and developing a mine or a hydro facility.
- + Road access for mining exploration and development and for renewable energy projects has been particularly difficult to obtain in IRAs.
 - + A road to access mineral operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. § 22 et seq.) will now be permitted throughout the Tongass if it meets the criteria of 36 C.F.R. Part 228.

3

Mining and Exploration Workforce Development

- + Mining provides diverse, high paying, year-round jobs at Southeast's three active underground mines.
- + Additional employment is available through support services and the exploration industry.
- + Ongoing workforce development is needed to maintain and grow regional employment in these skilled and professional positions.

3

Mining and Exploration Workforce Development



Continue to work with the University of Alaska Southeast to provide high caliber training to help high school students and other workers explore the workforce diversity available and find employment in the mining industry.

4

Preserve access to reliable, year-round transportation for miners living in rural Southeast Alaska

- + The mines of Southeast Alaska have recruited a significant level of regional talent.
- + However, if miners live in Southeast communities outside of key mining locations such as Juneau and Prince of Wales Island, do not always have reliable transportation connectivity to travel to and from their home community between shifts, regional jobs will be threatened.
- + For example, it is at times easier to commute to down south than to Haines.

4

Preserve access to reliable, year-round transportation for miners living in rural Southeast Alaska



Maintain ferry service to provide transportation for mining workers to their jobs.

5

Attract mining capital



Work to attract investment into regional mineral exploration and mine development.



Work to improve the investment climate while understanding that Southeast Alaska must compete with other mining jurisdictions around the world.

This includes efforts to maintain and control cost of living (including housing costs), reduce operating costs, such as freight and electricity, maintain marine and land access, and opposition to new mining taxes.



6

Create a more stable regulatory environment

- + Support the permitting process that has been developed.
 - + Ensure there is understanding regarding how new regulatory proposals might impact current and future mining operations and educate decision-makers on the importance of regulatory stability for the economy, environment, and communities.
 - + This includes understanding and monitoring of new regulatory rulemaking regarding NEPA and WOTUS and Supreme Court's decisions.
 - + It also includes understanding the implications of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements for general permits, nationwide permits, and Alaska Regional Conditions.
 - + It includes consideration of State primacy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 regulations.
 - + Finally, it includes support for a resolution of Tier 3 legislation in the State Legislature.
- 

7

Review and promote an understanding of decades of land use planning

Evaluate the status and potential need for change of existing land use plans, including the Southeast Area Transportation Plan, now that the State has prevailed in the 4407 Litigation and the 2001 Roadless Rule is no longer in effect on the Tongass.

8

Support research and promotion of regional mineral prospects and deposits

01

Partner with the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Mental Health Trust, and Sealaska to increase mineral and geology research.

02

Develop a better understanding of Southeast Alaska's mineral deposits.

03

Advertise the regional mineral endowment, along with land status and ownership associated with deposits.