



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Office of the Borough Manager
350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 745-9689 • Fax (907) 745-9669
John.Moosey@matsugov.us

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Support of HB 158 & 159 and SB 79 & 80

Dear Governor Parnell,

On behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, I am sending you this letter to support Senate Bills 79 & 80 and House Bills 158 & 159 related to the authority and obligations of the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA). These bills amend KABATA's enabling statute to provide for a successful procurement for the Knik Arm Crossing project and to generate the best value for the state. The Knik Arm Bridge Project is among the Borough's 2013 Legislative Priorities as demonstrated by Resolution 11-141.

These House and Senate bills accomplish many items KABATA has deemed necessary to have successful public-private partnership procurement. The first will increase KABATA's Bonding Authority from \$500 million to \$600 million which lowers the cost of capital for the project and ultimately lowers the cost to end users. The second item brings property tax relief by clarifying that the Knik Arm Crossing and associated facilities are exempt from state and local property taxes like any other transportation project in our state. A third item that would be accomplished is the identification of contractual money obligations of the State of Alaska under a P3 process. The last item necessary would create a reserve fund to provide a backstop for toll revenue fluctuations as well as to serve to enhance the credit worthiness of the project which would reduce overall project costs.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is one of the fastest growing communities in the state and this project will not only be an economic engine for jobs and development, but also provides the safety benefit of having a secondary arterial between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information or have questions.

Sincerely,

John M. Moosey
Borough Manager
JM/al

Adopted: 02/28/12

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 12-027**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILLS 158 AND 159 AND SENATE BILLS 79 AND 80 RELATING TO THE AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE KNIK ARM BRIDGE AND TOLL AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) was established in 2003 by the Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, their project, the Knik Arm Crossing, will be a significant addition to Alaska's infrastructure that will further facilitate the movement of goods and people in the State; and

WHEREAS, these House and Senate bills accomplish many items KABATA has deemed necessary to have a successful public-private partnership procurement; and

WHEREAS, the first will increase KABATA's Bonding Authority from \$500 million to \$600 million which lowers the cost of capital for the project and ultimately lowers the cost to end users; and

WHEREAS, the second item brings property tax relief by clarifying that the Knik Arm Crossing and associated facilities are exempt from state and local property taxes like any other transportation project in our State; and

WHEREAS, a third item that would be accomplished is the identification of contractual money obligations of the State of

Alaska under a P3 process; and

WHEREAS, the last item necessary would create a reserve fund to provide a backstop for toll revenue fluctuations as well as to serve to enhance the credit worthiness of the project which would reduce overall project costs.

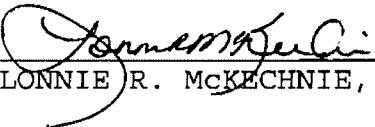
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports House Bills 158 and 159 and Senate Bills 79 and 80.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 28 day of February, 2012.



LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

YES: Woods, Arvin, Colligan, Salmon, Colver, and Halter

NO: Keogh

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Office of the Mayor

Phone: 907-343-7100
FAX: 907-343-7180

Mayor Dan Sullivan

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Linda Menard
Alaska State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for SB 79 and 80

Dear Senator Menard,

I have long been a vocal advocate for the Knik Arm Bridge and understand that we very much need the regional connectivity between our Ports, transportation corridors and our communities.

Now that the Record of Decision has been finalized on the project, I encourage the Alaska Legislature to approve the supporting legislation and recommended statute changes to move the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner. SB79 and SB 80 accomplish the goals of lowering the cost of capital on the project and reducing project costs, facilitating timely procurement for a 2015 opening and reducing the tolls on the project for end users.

The passage of SB79 and 80 is important to facilitate the progression of the project in a timely and beneficial manner to deliver a project that will be an asset to Alaskans for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Dan" on top and "Sullivan" below it.

Dan Sullivan
Mayor



THE ALLIANCE

...for responsible development of Alaska's Oil, Gas & Mineral Resources

Senator Linda Menard
Alaska State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Re: SB 79 and 80

February 10th, 2011

Dear Senator Menard:

The Alaska Support Industry Alliance supports the Knik Arm Crossing project and the associated needed legislation sponsored by Senator Menard in SB79 and SB80. We feel the Knik Arm Crossing project is a regional connectivity project that will provide a critical infrastructure link between our communities, as well as a much needed oil and gas staging connection between Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, the Interior part of our State and up to the lifeline of Alaska- Prudhoe Bay. I have long supported the need for this project and am writing to you today to encourage the Alaska Legislature to move the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner.

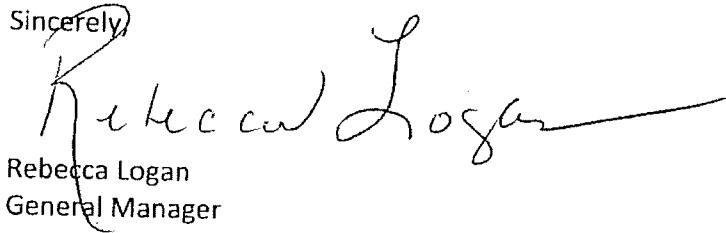
The mission of the Alliance is clear – “*To promote responsible exploration, development and production of oil, gas and mineral resources for the benefit of all Alaskans.*” Developing and improving our infrastructure, such as roads and bridges is critical to the expansion and development of our State’s natural resources. The mission of the Alliance and the benefits that will be achieved by the Crossing are in sync.

The Alliance is made up of nearly 500 businesses, organizations and individuals that provide products and services to the oil, gas and mining industries, and represent approximately 40,000 Alaskan workers. We promote a favorable business climate through strong government relations programs, public awareness of the relationships among political decisions, industry activity and Alaska’s economic health. Again, we believe the Knik Arm Crossing embodies the job creation and sustainable economic development that we hold at the forefront.

We understand the purpose of the proposed legislation and believe in the successful procurement of the Knik Arm Crossing to generate the best value to the State of Alaska. The passage of this legislation will facilitate the Knik Arm Crossing being open for traffic in 2015, thus expediting for my members and the State of Alaska ---the benefits generated from the Crossing.

In conclusion, the Alliance supports the passage of SB79 and 80 in order to facilitate the progression of the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Logan".

Rebecca Logan
General Manager

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

February 11, 2011

Senator Linda Menard
Alaska State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 79 and 80

Dear Senator Menard:

The Alaska Trucking Association and its nearly 200 member companies, stand firmly behind the Knik Arm Crossing project and the associated needed legislation. We feel the Knik Arm Crossing project is a regional connectivity project that will provide a critical infrastructure link between our communities, as well as a much needed freight and services connection between Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna and the Interior part of our State. I have long supported the need for this project and am writing to you today to encourage the Alaska Legislature to move the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner.

The Alaska Trucking Association has been serving the needs of the state's trucking industry for over 50 years. We have continually given our support to the Knik Arm Crossing project as we understand the need for improved access to and from our ports, communities and interior Alaska from both a freight and a trucking standpoint. ATA is a leader in Alaska and nationally in promoting and protecting the interests of the transportation industry before the state legislature, congressional delegation and administrative agencies and courts. We understand that Alaska is a young state with vast infrastructure needs. We encourage you to support the Knik Arm Crossing legislative request to help us move this critical infrastructure link forward and reduce the cost to end users.

We understand the purpose of the proposed legislation and believe in the successful procurement of the Knik Arm Crossing to generate the best value to the State of Alaska. The passage of this legislation will facilitate the Knik Arm Crossing being open for traffic in 2015, thus expediting for my members and the State of Alaska ---the benefits generated from the Crossing.

In conclusion, ATA supports the passage of SB79 and 80 in order to facilitate the progression of the project forward in a timely and beneficial manner.

Sincerely,



Aves D. Thompson
Executive Director



If you got it, a truck brought it...



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

February 22, 2011

Senator Linda Menard
Alaska State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB79 and SB80

Dear Senator Menard *Linda*

Developing and improving our transportation infrastructure, such as constructing roads and bridges is critical to the expansion and development of our State's natural resources. Some projects by their location and nature have a statewide significance. The proposed Knik Arm Bridge will provide an alternate route for the transport of people and goods along one of our busiest corridors and is one of these Projects of Significance.

We support the economic development of Alaska, the construction industry and look at infrastructure development as critical for the future of our economy. We believe the Knik Arm Crossing is a project that embodies the sustainable economic development and job creation that we hold at the forefront.

Since the Alaska Legislature created the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority in 2003, the AGC has written numerous letters of support for the project at the many hurdles it has had to overcome during its arduous development history. AGC supports the passage of SB79 and 80 in order to facilitate the forward progression of the project in a timely and efficient manner.

Sincerely,

John MacKinnon
Executive Director
AGC of Alaska

**CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 09-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF HOUSTON,
ALASKA AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
STATE OF ALASKA COMMISSION: KNIK ARM BRIDGE AND TOLL
AUTHORITY (KABATA) AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KNIK
ARM BRIDGE CROSSING FROM ANCHORAGE, ALASKA NORTH TO
POINT MACKENZIE, MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, ALASKA.**

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) was created in 2003 by Alaska Statute 19.75 to "...develop, stimulate, and advance the economic welfare of the state and further the development of public transportation systems in the vicinity of the Upper Cook Inlet with construction of a bridge to span Knik Arm and connect the Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough"; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage growth is geographically constrained; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna regional population is growing and is projected to increase around 200,000 more people by the year 2030 regardless of whether the bridge is built or not; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is the 35th fastest growing county in the U.S. this decade out of 3,141 counties; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a strong regional economy in contrast to a poor economy in bush Alaska attracting in-migration to the area; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is in close proximity to Alaska's economic and transportation hub – Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Houston is the nearest Municipality within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough of which the Knik Arm Bridge would have a significant impact; and

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Bridge brings an economic stimulus that:

- facilitates movement of people and goods,
- supports Alaska gas line and other resource development projects,
- establishes a new economic corridor for business
- establishes the only alternative highway safety route north,
- connects the Port of Anchorage and Port MacKenzie,
- establishes access to the planned Goose Creek Correctional Center,
- supports population growth due to an abundance of private land for development close to Anchorage,
- provides \$18.3 billion additional economic stimulus within the first twenty-three years of operation,
- provides an estimated 14,000 additional jobs,

CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 09-05

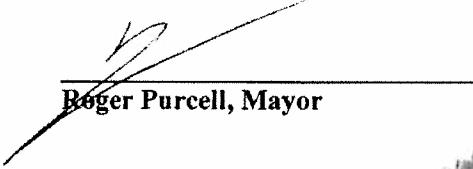
- provides \$1.2 billion additional local tax receipts,
- provides \$1.4 billion additional O&M and Capital expenditures,
- produces an estimated savings of \$95 million per year public travel in the first year alone,
- avoids an 80,000+ metric tons of carbon emissions in the first year,
- generates the maximum value to the Alaska public and the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, that:

The City of Houston hereby presents this resolution with the strongest recommendation in support of the Knik Arm Bridge as having a substantial economic value to Alaskans, is environmentally friendly, and is affordable and financially feasible.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of Houston, Alaska on this 12th day of February, 2009.

THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA


Roger Purcell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Steven M. Cunningham, City Clerk
Houston, Alaska

