

Testimony to Senate Finance Committee on SB160
March 21, 2012

Chairman Stedman, Co-chairman Hoffman and Committee members:

I am a longtime consulting civil engineer and fisherman--and reside in west Anchorage. Among other activities I serve on the UAA SOE Advisory Board. I'm also a former member of your committee—and appreciate the process you are going through.

I want to address two capital budget issues:

1. Funding for new engineering facilities at UAA and UAF. The need at UAA with growth in its engineering program is particularly acute. I am particularly pleased to see successful outreaches and support for Native students through ANSEP. But UAF with its traditional engineering and research programs also has huge needs. I know both of these building projects have been presented to you.

I encourage you to provide sufficient money to advance them. Getting funding for construction would be nice—but we need at least enough money to advance design and keep these projects on schedule.

2. Port of Anchorage expansion. The MOA has asked for \$350MM to complete this. I know this is a big project. It has had its share of challenges. But these are being addressed. I supported the initial phases of improvements at the Port in the early 1990s—and want to finish the job.

In closing, each of these projects has statewide impact and appeal. They have my support.

Loren Leman, P.E.
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PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK, INC.

BOX 70176 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-0176

Phone: 907-456-8579

e-mail: info@fairbankspioneermuseum.com

Operator of the Pioneer Museum and Big Stampede Show

Good Evening:

I am Kathleen Dalton, a member of the board of directors for the Pioneer Memorial Park Museum board. We are located at Pioneer Park, Fairbanks.

Our museum board supports funding for the expanded Alaska State Library, museum and archives, a combined facility that is projected to cost almost \$95 million.

We rely on the Alaska State Library and historical archives for professional advice, loan of materials, digital copies of rare photographs, and from time to time even small museum grants for projects that meet the strict criteria set out by specialized personnel on the state level.

Our museum was conceived 50 years ago by Sourdoughs in the Interior who began an organized effort to collect mining artifacts, pioneer records, and other historic documents that reflected the rich history of the Interior of Alaska. Over the years we have advanced into the digital age and have our museum articles identified, photographed, and recorded in a computer inventory.

The only public support we receive is the museum physical facility and a city bed tax grant which we compete for annually. Through a mutual agreement, the Fairbanks North Star Borough rents us space at a minimal charge in exchange for our full time operation during the visitor season in Fairbanks. Our museum and art display serve as a major "anchor" and display on the east side of the historic park. It is one of four major attractions in the park. Another of those four is a major commercial enterprise (salmon bake) that helps attract tourists and locals to the public park and, like our museum, serves as a very significant "anchor" to the west side of the park.

Since 1967 the museum has been operating on a completely volunteer basis thanks to the generous and collective efforts of the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society, Pioneer Men's Igloo No. 4, and Pioneer Women's Igloo No. 8. Those organizations support us financially to the best of their ability. Those cumulative funds never exceed \$5,000 per year. Another sporadic (but not guaranteed) source of funding is the Pioneer Foundation.

Our prized art display, valued at \$1.1 million, is a 15-piece set of murals that show the two major gold stampedes into the North Country: The 1897-98 Klondike in the Yukon and Fairbanks gold

discovery in the early 1900's. The large murals were painted by the late C. Rusty Heurlin and narrated by the Ruben Gaines, named Poet Laureate for Alaska in mid 20th century. They are owned by the Fairbanks Pioneers and are arranged in a circular theater setting that is electronically controlled for maximum viewing.

We operate a small museum store, the proceeds of which go to the wages of summer time docents.

We support the expansion of the Alaska State Library and particularly the state historical archives. Without their support, our small, quality museum would be lacking.

Thank you.

Kathleen Dalton,

Box 70681 Fairbanks, AK 99707-0681 322-6733 cell 479-6733 home
Pioneer Museum, Box 70176, Fairbanks, AK 99707-0176 456-8579

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I have been trying to call in to testify during public testimony for the Capital Budget, but am experiencing some problems due to high call volumes (according to the Anchorage LIO). I have here cc'd some of our members who had planned to call in as well. These members are from regions around the state including Fairbanks, Juneau, Anchorage, and Bethel. Below is my testimony for your convenience in case I am not able to make it through for public testimony verbally.

My name is Mary Sullivan and I'm writing you for the Alaska Primary Care Association, which represents all of Alaska's 143 Community Health Center clinics. CHCs serve the uninsured, under insured or otherwise hard to serve populations of Alaska and do not turn anyone away due to inability to pay, providing an important and vital safety net for Alaska. We have member clinics in each district of the state, serving your constituents in rural, frontier and urban settings. Spanning both tribal and non tribal systems of care, CHCs are a major component to Alaska's overall health care delivery system.

We urge you to include and support the **Patient Centered Medical Home Implementation Planning for CHC Clinics** increment into the state Capital Budget, SB160. This increment would be routed through the Department of Health & Social Services to ultimately fund 3 CHC grantees through a competitive RFP process based on readiness. The request is in the amount of \$437,500. We have been told by Commissioner Streur of DHSS that he supports this request. This money will help CHCs transform to the PCMH model, which is a model that was the number one recommendation of the Medicaid Task Force last legislative session, and one of the key recommendations of the Alaska Health Care Commission, to help control and reduce health care costs in Alaska. This model has been proven to help reduce health care costs across health care delivery systems, and to simultaneously improve patient health outcomes and satisfaction. Transformation to this model requires upfront investment, planning, and other significant technical improvements, however. Therefore, the APCA requests that this increment be included in the Capital budget to help assist CHCs with those upfront investment and other challenges as they transform to this new model of care. Grantees of this money would participate in the state's pilot PCMH project and work with the consultant hired recently by the state to assist Alaska in developing a PCMH model to fit Alaska's unique geographic and other challenges. If you include this increment, the state will reap the benefits and more importantly, so will Alaskans in your districts.

Thank you for including this important and modest increment request.

Respectfully,

Mary C. Sullivan, MSW

State Affairs Coordinator

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Promoting primary care access for all Alaskans

www.alaskapca.org

Browse APCA's helpful advocacy information and resources.

From: Carolyn & Don Gray <dcgray@mac.com>
Subject:
Date: March 21, 2012 10:19:21 AM GMT-08:00
To: Senate Finance Committee

Submitted to:
Alaska Senate Finance Committee
Budget Hearing / submitted at LIO, Fairbanks
March 21, 2012

We, the *Friends of the University of Alaska Museum*, urge your inclusion of \$94.5 million in the proposed budget for the completion of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum facility. Aware of the acquisition and maintenance of Alaska's historical, cultural and natural history, we are particularly concerned about the poor conditions of the three current separate Juneau facilities' and their responsibilities for the state's heritage.

The legacy of Alaska's Native heritage, and unique artifacts and documentation of the Russian American, Territorial and Statehood periods are precious and cannot be replaced. The State Library, Archives and Museum provide services to all regions of the state including specialized technical and conservation assistance to museums, libraries and historical societies.

The new facility will bring efficiency to the current 3 divisions and ease public access to digital collections while providing essential protection and preservation of the priceless articles of the entire state's heritage. On behalf of our current and future generations of residents, researchers, and scholars, we urge you to include funding in your proposed FY13 capital budget to complete the State Library, Archives, and Museum facility.

Sincerely,

Don Gray, President
Friends of the University of Alaska Museum of the North



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee name
Committee on SB160, dated 3/21/2012
Bill/Subject

To the Senate Finance Committee;

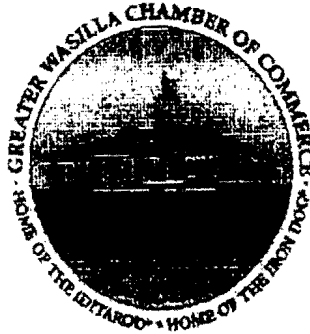
I am expressing public interest during the SB 160 public comment period for the committee meeting tonight. I am writing in support of the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD). These Districts perform essential work throughout Alaskan communities that would otherwise not be accomplished. Government agencies such as DNR, NRCS, Div. of Ag, USDFW, AKDf&G, and many others rely on Conservation Districts to assist with projects that benefit the government, local businesses, local citizens, and Alaskan visitors alike. In my community, the Conservation District builds and maintains public trails, provides nutrient management plans for farmers and gardeners, rehabilitates shoreline at valuable fish habitat sites, helps stop the spread of noxious weeds, does land capability classification data collection to determine the best sites for future agriculture use, creates GIS maps for government agriculture use, assists local citizens with flower beds and tourist attractions in Talkeetna, and much, much more. State funding is essential to obtain funding for these projects because they all require match funding. Without State funding, that match would be unavailable and these projects would not be accomplished.

The District hires local youth, ages 14-17, to accomplish most of the jobs listed above through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). These youth live in an impoverished community where 72% of the school kids are on the free and reduced lunch program. The jobs provided by the local Conservation District allow these kids to not only make a good wage, but learn work ethics, responsibility, and conservation practices at the same time. There are always more youth looking for a good job than there are YCC positions to fill, without State funding there may be no jobs for the local youth. The community is very upset to hear the YCC is in danger of shutting down due to a lack of State funding.

Please help our community help the conservation of natural resources. Without this, where would we be today? Please continue to fund the Conservation Districts and allow these important tasks to continue.

Sincerely,
Laura Allen

lauraleetraveler@yahoo.com



**GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RESOLUTION No. 2011-03
SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF THE ALASKA RAILROAD FROM THE RAILROAD
MAIN LINE TO PORT MACKENZIE**

WHEREAS, bulk natural resource development and export is important to the economy of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Denali Borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the Alaska Railroad to continue to provide economical transportation of bulk commodities is vital to the economic health of Alaska; and

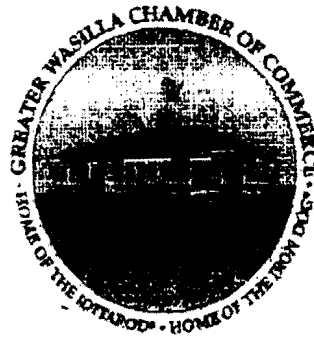
WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie, with its 8,940 acres of industrial development land and deep draft dock, is a developing port with capability for bulk natural resource transport; and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie is capable of handling panamax and cape-size vessels (the largest ships in the world); and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie is closer to tidewater than the existing ports of Southcentral Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a shorter distance to tidewater will make resource development in South Central and Interior Alaska more economical by lowering transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, the shorter rail distance to tidewater will further stimulate the use and export of coal from the Usibelli mine and other extracted material developments in the Denali Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Interior Alaska; and



WHEREAS, the rail extension will make development of natural resources (coal, limestone, sand and gravel, timber and metallic minerals, etc.) located in the rail belt and interior more economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, the rail spur to Port MacKenzie will create more usage of the Alaska Railroad and increase the economic viability of the railroad; and

WHEREAS, the increase in economic activity will significantly contribute to the State's economic well being, increase employment of Alaskans, and contribute to the continued economic stability of one of the fastest growing regions in the nation.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce strongly supports construction of the Alaska Rail line Extension from the Alaska Railroad mainline to Port MacKenzie.

ADOPTED by the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce this 18th day of October, 2011.

GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By: 

Lyn Carden - Executive Director

By: 

Quentin Algood - Secretary

Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the painstaking work on our state's oil tax structure. Until oil throughput stops declining our state needs projects other than the oilfield to supplement state revenues.

Port MacKenzie Rail is one such project.

This 32-mile rail link from the mainline to a deepwater port may seem insignificant; but, it provides low cost transportation for mineral development that does not exist today. We know that private sector development follows government infrastructure investments.

University Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) estimates that **1,000 mineral occurrences** (of copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, silver) **are deposited along the Railroad's mainline.**

By developing just three of those mines:

- ♦ The expected **revenues to the state are \$300 million** a year over 60 years.
- ♦ The projected **economic benefits to the railbelt communities are \$3 billion per year.**
- ♦ **3,000 construction-related jobs and 4,000 mining jobs will be created** along the corridor from Fairbanks to Anchorage.

Keep in mind, with the creation of jobs comes **head of household wages and often medical insurance benefits. With these jobs and insurance, comes a reduction in public assistance needs.** Work is good for we human beings; work is good for our mental and physical health, thus again, reducing the need for public assistance. I believe an infrastructure investment with public funds to **produce such jobs is a better use of public money** because when the project is complete and the construction jobs are gone we still **have a tangible asset** which will continue to bring job opportunities long in to the future.

If we as a state are looking for an industry to stimulate, it's the idle minerals and bulk resources spread along the mainline from Point MacKenzie to Fairbanks. Established mines such as Fort Knox and Pogo are already saying **the rail link will reduce their transportation costs** making even gold mines more competitive. I'm a supporter of the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce; however, I view the Port Mac Rail project as **a statewide project benefiting all Alaskans.** I urge you to support this project by approving the funding for this transportation infrastructure which will in turn provide a benefit all Alaskans. I

believe it is the purpose of government to use public money to provide infrastructure which provides for the private sector to thrive.

Thank you for your hard work and attention to this project.

Diana L. Straub, BOS, ACB, CL
Wasilla, Alaska

Sydney Seay

From: Loren D. Leman <ldl@mlfaalaska.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:37 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Cc: Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.alaska.gov; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB160 Testimony
Attachments: Written Testimony to Senate Finance Committee on SB160 3.21.12.pdf

Senators Stedman, Hoffman and other members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I called in this evening to testify at 5:30 pm, when I understood you would be able to take my testimony. However, because of technical challenges, it wasn't until close to 6 pm that I was assisted by a teleconference operator—and I have been listening to testimony since then. Just in case you are unable to take my testimony during the remaining time I have available (my time window is closing rapidly), I am sending my comments in writing on two areas of the capital budget—UA engineering facilities and Port of Anchorage expansion.

Thank you for listening—and reading. Best wishes with your work.

Loren Leman, P.E.
696-6209 (W) or 243-2000 (H)

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