



Haines Huts and Trails

Nate Arrants

Executive Director

nate@haineshuts.org - (907) 302-6050

P.O. Box 501, Haines, AK 99827

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of Haines Huts and Trails (HHT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding public access to outdoor recreation in the Chilkat Valley, I write to express our strong support for the passage of HB50. This bill would allow HHT, the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, and other organizations to operate a fundraiser, the 'Snow Classic', for the purpose of additional financial support for our youth programs and winter grooming operations. This legislation is critical to enhancing the sustainability and accessibility of outdoor recreation opportunities for youth in our region.

HHT works to maintain and improve a network of groomed winter trails for nordic skiing, fat biking, and snowshoeing. These efforts support local residents and visitors alike, promoting outdoor education, community well-being, and economic opportunities through responsible recreation and tourism. Both the Haines and Klukwan schools use our winter trails for outdoor youth education, which is an essential outlet for students during our long Alaskan winters.

The passage of HB50 would provide another outlet to support organizations like ours, ensuring that we can continue to offer safe and affordable outdoor experiences. Many rural and off-road-system communities in Alaska, like Haines, face unique financial challenges in maintaining outdoor infrastructure, and this legislation would provide a critical funding mechanism to help bridge the gap.

We urge you to vote yes on HB50 and support the continued growth of outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nate Arrants

Executive Director

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