



February 21, 2018

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed changes identified in SB 86 and HB 207 to allow the Alaska Railroad Corporation to sell or dispose of the Corporation's land. Currently, all such actions by the Corporation must obtain legislative approval to dispose of any land. We respectfully request your committee approves the changes identified in the bill language thus allowing the Alaska Railroad to increase efficiencies in the operation of their business.

Historically, great railroads of our nation were granted land in excess of the requirements for track bed and supporting infrastructure. This was to help fund the cost of the system and to develop markets which would utilize the railroad. The Alaska Railroad was organized as a public corporation to be able to act more like a business than a traditional state agency, yet no other state agency requires legislative approval for land disposal.

The requirement to obtain legislative approval adds substantial delays and unknowns to a project startup, which are major disincentives to even beginning a project. The proposed amendments in SB 86 and HB 207 provide sufficient transparency as well as checks and balances to ensure the public interest is served. The Fairbanks Chamber also supports the sunset provision which will provide additional legislative review to ensure certain protections or guidance for management of the land grant.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President & CEO  
Fairbanks Chamber

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany Van Horn".

Tiffany Van Horn  
Chair  
Fairbanks Chamber

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

### DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines  
Foundation Health Partners  
Lockheed Martin  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Ravn Alaska  
Vivamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Denali State Bank  
Doyon, Limited  
Fred Meyer Stores  
GCI  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
ExxonMobil  
First National Bank Alaska  
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
Lynden  
Matson Alaska  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Yukon Title Company