



Southeast Conference



SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Southeast Conference is a membership organization created in 1958 to promote and develop economic success in Southeast Alaska. We are a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Members include municipalities, native corporations and village councils, regional and local businesses, civic organizations and individuals throughout the region. Our goal is to support policies that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment for Southeast Alaska. We are the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska. Each of these designations requires Southeast Conference to take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning.

TOP 10 LIST, 2013

- Energy Development**
- Maritime Technology and Trade Industry Development**
- Workforce & Education to Jobs Connection**
- Industry Sector Partnerships/Strong Small Businesses**
- Alaska Marine Highway/Transportation**
- Sustainable/Renewable Timber Industry**
- Mineral Exploration and Development**
- Strong Fisheries Industry**
- Regional Research and Technology Development**
- Visitor Industry in the Region**



ARDOR

Alaska Regional Development Organizations

**CELEBRATING
25 YEARS**
1988 - 2013

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Southeast Conference's top goal regarding energy is to support and assist in the creation, development, and transmission of renewable energy. Southeast Conference encourages the conservation of existing energy related resources within Southeast Alaska to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electricity, space heat and transportation.

We are working to increase economic development opportunities to communities by reducing and stabilizing costs to ratepayers. One of the keys to this is to identify adequate energy infrastructure—including alternative energy resources such as geo-thermal, biomass, wind, tidal—to meet future needs in member communities/utilities. We will continue to review the feasibility of developing regional electrical grids interconnecting Southeast Alaska communities and utilities with hydroelectric generation where economically feasible.



MARITIME TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



Another top priority of Southeast Conference is to enhance the efficiency and capacity of Alaska's Marine Technology and Trades Industry, in order to support a wide array of existing and emerging economic activity dependent upon marine transportation. The Southeast Conference will continue to help rural communities identify and maximize local assets, and connect to regional opportunities and self-identified clusters that demonstrate high-growth potential. We are currently supporting efforts to create a sufficient regional workforce to meet industry needs.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION TO JOBS CONNECTION



Southeast Conference believes that workforce development and education are the building blocks of any successful region. As we forge our way through the next years we are looking for as many partners as possible to create a strong workforce and education system in our region, including School Districts, Universities, Regional Training Centers, Private Businesses, Labor Unions, Career Pathways, Junior Achievement, Lemonade Day, United Way Tutor Readers. We are looking in every corner and crack in our region to collect all of our resources to reach every student and provide opportunities for every person in our region. From mining and timber to research and development; connecting training and education to jobs and careers is the goal.

INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS & STRONG SMALL BUSINESSES

Southeast Conference believes that the success of small business and private industry depends on Industry Sector Partnerships. This effort will connect small business and private industry in the region with their "regional neighbor", "local vendor" and "local customer". Knowing who your regional vendors and customers are not only grows your customer base but grows the value of vendor contacts as well. Southeast Conference knows that success of small business and private industry holds our region together.



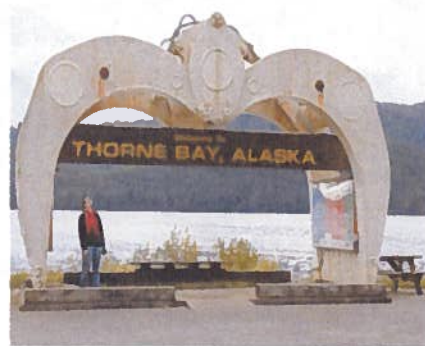
ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY/TRANSPORTATION



Southeast Conference has been working on transportation issues for Southeast Alaska for more than 50 years. We support the continued development a regional transportation system that provides safe, affordable, and dependable, long-term transportation for our region. We support a comprehensive vessel replacement plan to replace the aging fleet that will build and implement the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan's objectives of providing improved, cost-effective regional transportation in Southeast Alaska. We encourage region-wide enhancement, repair and development of harbors and port facilities, while networking export and import opportunities within the region and internationally.

SUSTAINABLE/RENEWABLE TIMBER INDUSTRY

Southeast Conference believes we need to establish a sustainable and renewable timber industry in Southeast Alaska. We think this can be accomplished by continued participation in efforts with the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Organizations to reinstate the responsibility of establishing a predictable and reliable timber supply sufficient to sustain the region's timber economy and communities. Assist in implementing a communication strategy that positions timber harvesting as a renewable, responsible industry that provides wealth and is not harmful to the environment.



Southeast Conference supports the recommendations given to the Governor by the Timber Task force in June of 2012: 1) management of state-owned forests; 2) expansion of legislatively-designated state forests; 3) establishment of legislatively-designated state forests; 4) State of Alaska timber harvesting statutes and regulations; 5) Tongass National Forest ownership and management; 6) timber demand and supply; 7) wood products development; and 8) additional research needs. We are in support of the message given to the USFS: Triple Bottom Line: -Restore economy- -Restore community & social values- -Restore environment

MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Southeast Conference continues to support the development of the mineral development sector. We want to ensure that the mining industry continues to be a growing, vital, and strategic piece of Alaska's economy. We will assist in implementing a statewide communication strategy that positions mining as a leader in responsible resource development. We will also assist in the efforts to compile available information on community engagement best practices, make this information available in a centralized forum, and adopt state-wide standards and best practices.

We will continue to participate in improving the mining network in the state and to create collaborative conversational environment for all three tiers of the industry: producers, explorers and independent/family mines. Such a network would better connect Alaska mining industries and spur advancement using technological tools and communications. We support efforts to create a sufficient Alaska mining workforce, meet industry needs, and focus on meeting the needs of students so that skilled people can advance the mining industry. Alaska employers become international industry leaders.

STRONG FISHERIES INDUSTRY



Southeast Conference supports environmentally and economically sustainable year around jobs in Southeast Alaska through the development of a shellfish industry and revitalization of the seafood industry by supporting research, technology transfer, infrastructure development, marketing, quality control, vocational training and transportation.

We support the efforts of Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to investigate the control of sea otter populations in Southeast Alaska through management partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as provided under Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We support state funding for the Alaska seafood marketing institute (ASMI). ASMI has been very effective in developing and promoting the message of sustainability and quality of wild Alaska seafood, and raising awareness of the Alaska seafood brand among consumers. This strategy has resulted in increased ex-vessel prices, which brings increased tax revenues to municipalities and the state, and enormous benefits to the overall economy of Alaska.

REGIONAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Southeast Conference believes we should enhance the base of research and development operations here in Southeast Alaska. We hope to enhance the capacity to develop a research hub in the region to support a wide array of existing and emerging economic activity. There are currently several hundred Federal, State, and municipal research and development employees here in Southeast. A greater portion of the regions federal and state forests and waterways could be used for more explicit research.

We will continue to provide a development framework that addresses resource and energy development and environmental change. There are enormous social benefits that can be provided through the creation of professional jobs, along with building a resource base for professional growth. These in turn will enhance the livability of our communities.



VISITOR INDUSTRY IN THE REGION



Visitors are a vital part of the economy of Southeast Alaska. It is important to Southeast Conference that all aspects of tourism are supported in an environmentally sound and economically sustainable way. Marketing for independent travelers to small communities would be beneficial to those economies. The cruise industry has a dramatic impact on the health of local tourism businesses in the larger communities but in small communities, the independent and adventure travelers can be a large part of the local economy.

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