



Interior Alaska – The “Place” To Do Business

100 Cushman St., Suite 102 | Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4665
ph (907) 452-1105 | fax (907) 456-6968 | www.FairbanksChamber.org

February 15, 2013

Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor of the State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol Building
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) thanks you for your leadership in introducing a comprehensive financial package that addresses the high cost of energy in Interior and Rural Alaska. Specifically, the GFCC is supportive of HB 74 and SB 23, bills that authorize the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) to provide low interest loans and issue bonds for a liquefied natural gas production and distribution system. The Chamber supports advancement and passage of HB74 and SB 23 and will actively take a role in communicating that message.

We believe your three-pronged approach of providing 1) low interest, long term loans; 2) gas storage tax credits that passed last session; and 3) state general fund dollars are the right financial tools to build out and supply a natural gas infrastructure for Interior and Rural Alaska.

The GFCC agrees with your stated goals of natural gas at \$15/MMBTU to the greatest number of Interior residents and businesses as rapidly as possible. We do have concern that the level of state general fund money in the current version of the capital budget is not sufficient to make the project economical while also reaching the pricing and availability goals. The official GFCC position remains an appropriation of at least \$150 million in state general funds to underpin the economics of this project. As the 2013 legislative session progresses, and both the AIDEA financing bill and capital budget advance, we pledge to work with your administration and the legislature to ensure the amount and type of funds dedicated to this project are sufficient to meet the stated goals.

Lastly, and this cannot be stressed enough, the GFCC and the over 700 member businesses and organizations throughout the Interior we represent, believe it is absolutely necessary that both measures pass THIS legislative session. The Chamber’s mission is to advocate a healthy economic environment by building partnerships that promote the greater Fairbanks area as an attractive place for business and community. As an economic hub for the rest of the Interior, we are also invested in solutions to the high cost of energy facing Rural Alaska. Our work is focused on creating a pro-business environment that encourages private sector investment and job creation. We believe the Interior remains the “Place to do

INVESTORS

DIAMOND

- BP Exploration
- ConocoPhillips
- ExxonMobil
- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital & Denali Center
- Flint Hills Resources Alaska
- Mt. McKinley Bank
- Santina’s Flowers & Gifts

PLATINUM

- Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Doyon, Limited
- Fred Meyer Stores
- Golden Heart Utilities
- Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

GOLD

- Alaska Railroad
- Birchwood Homes
- Carlson Center
- Denali State Bank
- Design Alaska
- Doyon Utilities LLC
- First National Bank Alaska
- Kinross Fort Knox Mine
- Lynden
- MAC Federal Credit Union
- Northrim Bank
- Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC
- Usibelli Coal Mine

SILVER

- ACS
- Alaska Airlines
- Alaska USA
- Dr. Christopher Henry – Henry Orthodontics
- Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK
- Exclusive Paving/Univ. Redi-Mix
- Fairbanks Natural Gas
- Flowline Alaska
- GCI
- General Teamsters Local 959
- GVEA
- Hale & Associates, Inc.
- JL Properties, Inc.
- Key Bank
- Personnel Plus
- Sam’s Club
- Shell Exploration & Production Co.
- Spirit of Alaska FCU
- Tanana Valley Clinic
- TDL Staffing
- Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.
- Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Verizon Wireless
- WAL-MART Stores, Inc.
- Yukon Title Company

Business”, but our mission is made more difficult every year that goes by without action towards a mid-to-long term energy solution that addresses the high cost of energy for our businesses and residents.

We thank you for your leadership on this critical issue facing our community. The Chamber looks forward to being your partner in this “persistent, unrelenting effort” to bring low cost energy to the Interior and Rural Alaska.


Sincerely,



Lisa Herbert
Executive Director



Terri Froese
Board of Directors, Chair



Bob Shefchik
Energy Committee, Chair



Anna Atchison
Government Relations Committee, Chair

cc: Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell
Governor's Chief of Staff, Mike Nizich
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator Mark Begich
U.S. Representative Don Young
Bryan Butcher, Commissioner of Revenue
Dan Sullivan, Commissioner of Natural Resources
Joe Balash, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources
Gene Therriault, Deputy Director Statewide Energy Policy Development (AEA)
Mark Davis, Deputy Director Infrastructure Development (AIDEA)
Jim Strandberg, Energy Development Finance Officer (AIDEA)
Interior Delegation
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska Chambers of Commerce
Associated General Contractors
National Federation of Independent Businesses
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Membership of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce