

1 April 2013

Senator Kevin Meyer
State Capitol Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Community Transportation State Match SB 18

Dear Senator Meyer,

As long time supporters of Public Transportation and board members of the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC), we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding SB 18.

The AMC is a private, non-profit membership organization that represents and advocates for public and community transportation in Alaska. AMC has 125 members across the state from Bethel to Prince of Wales Island. In partnership with the State of Alaska, AMC members provide over 7 million rides annually to Alaskans.

During the last legislative session, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities was awarded \$2 million to use as match for public and community transportation providers across the state. The AMC believes that \$2 million is not enough to meet the growing demand for public and community transportation in Alaska and proposes an increase to \$3 million in the FY 2014 budget. Currently, the SB 18 appropriation funds Community Transportation State Match at \$1 million.

Ms. Karcz and I support the AMC's \$3 million dollar request for the FY 2014 budget. This funding is essential in addressing the ongoing transportation needs of large and rural communities throughout our state. A \$3 million dollar investment in public and community transportation will leverage \$15 million dollars in unanticipated federal, state, and local funds.

Building on the successes of the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions, a \$3 million dollar appropriation ultimately allows transit providers to make significant improvements to services. Public and community transportation provides reliable access to jobs and services, improves mobility, reduces congestion and energy consumption, and improves safety in our communities.

A continued or increased investment in public and community transportation results in sustainable and tangible benefits for Alaska. Senator Meyer, as you and the Twenty-eighth Alaska State Legislature review the FY 2014 Capital Budget, we respectfully request an increase from the current \$1 million appropriation for Community Transportation State Match to \$3 million.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Jody Karcz & Jamie Acton", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jody Karcz & Jamie Acton
Board Members
Alaska Mobility Coalition