

From: [Jamie Marunde](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: DOT Cuts - Keep Northway Open
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 4:15:07 PM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am submitting a comment in regards to the proposed Operating budget in which Northway DOT's maintenance station was proposed for closure.

The Northway DOT is an integral station situated at the border of the State of Alaska on the only highway entering and exiting Alaska. They maintain 140+ lane miles of Alaska Highway, 20 miles of bus routes, the border station & port of entry, and a port of entry Airport. The Upper Tanana region believes that in both the short and long term, the costs of closing Northway DOT will quickly overcome any suggested savings. Not only is it a financial loss in failing infrastructure, to tourism, and to businesses utilizing this highway, but it is a loss of most of the permanent jobs here which support the local economy. The next closest camp will not be able to efficiently maintain Northway's Alaska highway, border station, and airport port of entry.

As the State faces financial hardship and many difficult financial decisions, please ensure that basic infrastructure is maintained. The Northway DOT is extremely important to reducing long term maintenance costs, keeping the border station operable, and allowing business to flow through out Alaska. We Alaskans need this more than ever.

Thank you,



Jamie Marunde
Board Chair, Northway Natives Incorporated
PO Box 516
Northway AK 99764
[907-322-4476](tel:907-322-4476)