



## CITY OF THORNE BAY

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October 26, 2015

Shelly Wright, Executive Director  
Southeast Conference  
P.O. Box 21989  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Alaska Legislator;

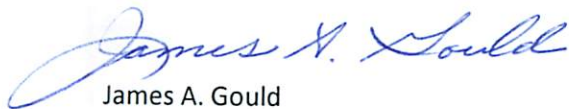
I am writing this letter in support of the reauthorization of the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program. I believe the work and support the ARDORs are able to provide through this program offer great benefit to the state, and will be a crucial component in Alaska's future efforts to diversify and grow the economy.

The ARDOR program was created in 1988, with the goal of supporting regional economic development organizations' efforts to grow and strengthen their local economies. The 11 organizations that currently hold ARDOR status work diligently to uphold that mission. Leveraging a relatively modest investment by the state (roughly \$70,000 per ARDOR), these organizations have been able to match the state funds they receive by almost three to one. They have then utilized this funding to do a range of important projects across the state which have improved the local economies and driven economic development efforts statewide.

The City of Thorne Bay is proud to support the ARDORs efforts to make Alaska a better place to live and do business. We believe that this type of statewide, collaborative economic development effort is exactly what Alaska needs.

I hope that you will join us in supporting the ARDOR reauthorization at its current funding level. This project is not only a good use of state dollars, but an excellent resource for the state and private sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James A. Gould". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James A. Gould

Mayor

City of Thorne Bay