



# International Union of Operating Engineers LOCAL 302 • Washington and Alaska • AFL-CIO

**Daren Konopaski**, *Business Manager and General Vice President*

**Corey Baxter**, *District 8 Representative*

February 10, 2015

House Transportation Committee  
Alaska State House  
State Capitol Rm, 17  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Juneau Access Project

To whom it may concern:

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 strongly encourages the Transportation Committee and any Legislature to proceed with the Juneau Access Project. This project is a shovel ready project for which the funding has already been appropriated and cancellation could result in federal penalties. Since there are no other shovel ready projects, it is likely the federal funds would be lost to Alaska.

The Juneau Access project is a critical infrastructure project for Juneau and Southeast Alaska. The construction jobs will help offset the necessary reduction in other state employment and spending. The completion of the road will allow the private sector to develop in our economy. The project will increase transportation capacity and reduce travel time and cost in the region, particularly for travel between the Lynn Canal communities of Juneau, Haines, Skagway and Alaskans traveling on the road system.

If this Administration halts this project, we wonder what alternative they will offer to reduce the cost of transportation and travel for the residents of Juneau and upper Lynn Canal, short of cutting more services and ports of call on the Lynn Canal route. The cost of ferry transportation remains significant. The design of the ferry system cannot provide services to other parts of Southeast Alaska if it must continue to serve the northern portion as it does now. It's time to move this project ahead.

I would like to thank the Transportation Committee for their time and effort with this project and hope to see it move forward.

Sincerely,

Corey Baxter  
District 8 Representative, Operating Engineers Local 302

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**Kyle Brees**, *Financial Secretary* • **Sean Jeffries**, *President* • **Robert Peterson**, *Vice President*

MAIN OFFICE: 18701 120th Avenue N.E. • Bothell, Washington 98011-9514

Telephone: (425) 806-0302 • Toll-free: 1-800-521-8882 • Fax: (425) 806-0030

JUNEAU OFFICE: 9309 Glacier Hwy., Suite A-105 • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Telephone: (907) 586-3850 • Toll-free: 1-800-478-9551 • Fax: (907) 463-5464

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