



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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April 11, 2017

Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Neil Foster
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Seaton and Foster,

The Department of Natural Resources supports HB 6, which would establish the Jonesville Public Use Area. This legislation provides the necessary authority for the Department to establish a management plan and implement enforceable regulations that will protect public safety, enrich the recreational experiences in the area, and ensure that the existing coal lessees will continue to have access to their subsurface mineral rights if they wish to develop them in the future.

We look forward to working with local stakeholders in crafting this plan as the workload of the Department permits. This process is expected to take 5 years to complete without additional funding or 3 years to complete with an appropriation of \$166,000 for the next 2 years to support additional staff and contract work.

While this legislation is a positive first step in solving the issues that currently exist near Sutton by creating a legal framework to manage the area, funding for enforcement of the area will need to be addressed in the future to ensure a successful implementation of any plan that is developed.

Thank you for consideration of this bill and please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew T. Mack".

Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner, DNR