

February 28, 2019

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to protest your action of removing the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program from the State budget.

As a member of the Petersville Community Non-Profit Corp. and a user of the Petersville Community Snowmobile trail system, I am sorely disappointed about your decision to dissolve the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council and seize funds to be utilized for a purpose for which they were never intended.

I would like to clarify the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program is funded through a self-imposed user tax, or snowmobile registration/point of sale user fees, that has been in place since 1997. The program was intended to be self-sustaining due to the recurring registration fees paid directly to the state DNR and the point of sale registration fees collected by snowmachine dealers. This money was to be used to fund the Trails Grant Program, which would cover grooming operations of approved trails, and safety programs. 12% of the funds cover the costs of State employees administering the program and administrative fees. The grant application process was designed to allocate funds to the various snowmachine clubs and groomers in the State, which had approved snowmachine trails in the Trails Grant Program. The SnowTRAC program was intended to support the local communities and boost the winter tourism and economy.

Please consider that the snowmobilers spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in our winter economy which otherwise would be slow. Winter tourism is on the rise because of the groomed trails, which provide responsible riding and safety. Groomed trails help in resolving conflict with property owners and land managers where snowmachining is prohibited.

The groomed trails have also helped considerably in the keeping the cost of State of Alaska Search and Rescue to a minimal. With signs, maps and groomed trails, Riders are less likely to get lost. That means the Troopers are called out less so the cost to the State of Alaska is less. Since the groomed trails have been introduced, Petersville Search and Rescue has had less rescues to respond to so these trails provide safety as well.

While I understand that the State is faced with many hard financial decisions, I hope you may consider doing the right thing by reinstating this program. The SnowTRAC program benefits all Alaskans and anyone who wants to enjoy all that Alaska has to offer in the winter. SnowTRAC saves lives, promotes safety, stimulates the economy, and creates jobs.

The SnowTRAC program is a one of a kind in this State and should be an example for other user groups for their service needs so as not to stress the State of Alaska budget.



This letter represents the entities listed below and the Cabin owners of the Petersville Community who has one of the largest trail systems in the State of Alaska, 150 square miles. We have 380 Property/cabin owners who use this trail system for hauling fuel, supplies, and any other necessities.

The trails are multi use so they benefit the following user groups: Dog Teams, Snowmobiles, Hikers, Fat Tire Bikers and Skiers.

Without the SnowTRAC program Alaska will be “closed for business” in the winter.

Respectfully,

Michele Stevens
President
Petersville Community Non-Profit Corp.

Below is a list of businesses, clubs, and lodges that will be directly affected or may close their doors if the SnowTRAC program is discontinued:

CLUBS

Petersville Community NPC
Curry Ridge Riders
Homer Snomads
Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers
Willow Trail Committee
Alaska Motor Mushers
Mid Valley Trails
Kachemack Nordic Ski Club

Big Lake Trails
Mat Su Vintage Club
Anchorage Snowmobile Club
Lake Louise Snowmachine Club
(Wolfpack)
Valdez Snowmachine Club
Homer Cycling clubs
Kachemack Ski Club (Homer Rope Tow)

BUSINESSES

Three Bears Big Lake & Healy
Triple J Restaurant
Big Lake Family Restaurant
The Moonshine Shop
Aardvark Restaurant
Tesoro Big Lake and Talkeetna Y
Brewed Oasis Coffee Shop
Newmans Hilltop
Cubby's
Willow Trading Post

Cycle Logical
The Alaska Market Place
Totem Restaurant and Inn
Chevron Cantwell
Tesu Cantwell
A2D Sledworks
Alaska Snowmobile Salvage
Alaskan Off-Road Adventures LLC
Boreal Back-country Inc
Off the Grid Rentals



LODGES

Skwenta Roadhouse
Fireweed Lodge
Forks Roadhouse
Yentna Station
Alpine Creek Lodge
Gate Creek Cabins
MacLaren River Lodge
McDougal lodge
Eagle Quest Cabins and Lodge
Rebels Roost
Sheep Creek Lodge
Shell Lake Lodge
Eureka Lodge
Telvista Lodge
Sheep Mountain Lodge
Bentalit Lodge
Lake Louise Lodge
C C L Lodge
Northwood's Lodge
Freddie's Roadhouse

Alaska Heritage Lodge
Deshka Wilderness Lodge
Driftwood Inn
Kachemack Bay Wilderness Lodge
Baycrest Lodge
Alaska Adventure Cabins
Beluga Lake Lodge
Alaska Winter Park Cabins
Pioneer Lodge
Willow Island Resort
Alaska Host B&B
Otter Beach Lodges
Otter Cove Resort
Soaring Eagle Lodge (Ninilchick)
Lands End Resort
Kenai Peninsula Suites
Bear Creek Bend LLC
The Point Lodge
North Country Inn

DEALERS

Hatcher Pass Polaris
Anchorage Yamaha/Polaris
McKinley Polaris
Team CC Anchorage/Wasilla
Eagle River Polaris/Arctic Cat
Alaska Mining and Diving
Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat
All Seasons Honda

Alaska Cycle Center
Big Lake Power Sports
House of Yamaha
Wasilla Arctic Cat & Marine
Peninsula Ski Doo
Homer Saw and Cycle
Lower Peninsula Power Sports

DOG MUSHING EVENTS

Iditarod
Susitna 50
Jr. Iditarod
Susitna 100
Klondike 300

Willow 300
Tustumena 200
Denali Doubles
Freddie's Midnight Run Sled dog Race
Copper Basin 300



EVENTS

IronDog Race
Freddie's Drag Racing
Skwenta 200
Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers Family
Fun Day
Caroling with Kathy
Numerous fundraisers between lodges
Bird Homestead Golf Tournament
Big Lake Family Fun Run
Snomads Kick - Off Party
Meet and Greet with Iron Dog Racers
Cory Davis & Team Event (stunt
snowmachine rider)

Caribou Hills Kickoff Party
Military Appreciation Day's
Way out Women for Cancer
Petersville Community Fun Run and
Easter Egg Hunt
Ladies Ride for Cancer
Sponsor Trail rides for locals and tourist
Sled for Hope (Fundraiser ride for Pacific
Northwest Adult and Teen Challenge
programs)
Alaska SnowX
Homer Epic
Iditasport Alaska

FAT TIRE BIKES

Fat tires bikes Alaska
Fat Freddie's bike race
Big Fat Bike Festival

WHOLE COMMUNITIES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED

Big Lake
Petersville
Ninilchik
Trapper Creek

Cantwell
Willow
Homer
Skwentna