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**From:** Barbara <bc@farak.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2022 8:42 AM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. DeLena Johnson  
**Cc:** House Finance; Jenny Martin  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Re-sending letter of support: South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout-Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge  
**Attachments:** 2022.3.29FARsupportSPM.pdf; S Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout-Anch Coastal Wildl Ref.pdf; 2022\_08 RCCC CAPSIS recs to Finance Comms.pdf  
**Importance:** High

\*This testimony of support was sent originally on March 29th but ended up in some people's junk mail. Resending to smaller groups.

The Honorable Senators, Click Bishop and Bert Stedman, Co-Chairs, The Honorable Senators, Lyman Hoffman, Natasha von Imhof, David Wilson, Donald Olson, and Bill Wielechoski

The Honorable Representative Neal Foster, Chair, and The Honorable Representatives Louise Stutes, Bryce Edgmon, Chris Tuck, Kelly Merrick, Cathy Tilton, Laddie Shaw, and Steve Thompson

Re: Support for South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout – Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

2022.3.29

Dear Co-Chair Senators Click Bishop and Bert Stedman, and Senate Finance Committee Members; and Co-Chairs Representatives Neal Foster and Kelly Merrick and House Finance Committee Members:

I write with support for the **South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout – Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, Remodel, Reconstruction, and Upgrades, Sponsored by Senator Holland and Representative Kaufman, for FY2023 State Funding Request: \$780,251**, on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR), a 501 c-3 nonprofit in good standing with the State of Alaska. The Potter Marsh upgrades for which a conceptual plan has existed since 2014, could be accomplished readily and could help get more people back to work. Through the attachments (Including this text on FAR's letterhead) you will see that the project has been through a public review process at the local level and is a community priority.

Through mindful planning for this popular resident and visitor destination, this project will promote public health, public safety, wildlife and habitat education, and encourage appropriate use of the resource, while discouraging nuisance uses at the south end parking lot and marsh area. We wrote with support of the initial similar plan on 2021.3.9. This private public partnership project scheduled to start fall of 2021 was delayed due to a shortfall of funding and COVID-related fallout such as cost increases and supply chain issues. With this funding it can be rescheduled to begin spring/summer. ConocoPhillips donated an enormous amount originally for this project already having contributed about \$2.5 million for the Master Interpretive Plan completed summer of 2007, guiding the latest boardwalk extension completed in 2008. Providing money to address the identified upgrades will help make the highest use of the funding already acquired and enhance

## Correspondence



### **RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)**

A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



**1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503**

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
and other members of the  
Senate Finance Committee

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair  
Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair  
and other members of the  
House Finance Committee

March 28, 2022

Dear Honorable Legislative Members:

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) has worked closely with our Legislative delegation, Representative Kaufman and Senator Holland, to submit and endorse a number of CAPSIS proposals for your consideration. The purpose of this letter is to highlight three of those submissions involving projects for which the RCCC has been advocating for a number of years:

1) Chugach State Park Access: This has ranked as one of the RCCC and other Community Councils highest priority capital funding proposals for several years. We've all seen, and been frustrated by, overflowing parking lots at the existing limited access points for Chugach State Park's world-class trails and accessible observation points, areas used by everyone in the Anchorage area, resident and visitor alike. The current FY23 CAPSIS request is for \$400,000; we respectfully request that the entire \$2.6 million project be funded in FY23. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has a conceptual design for a midsized parking lot (50-75 vehicles, priced at \$2.4 million in 2021), location to be determined, along with small improvements at several existing trailheads. These improvements are critical to maintaining and expanding access to state parks.

Not only does this project benefit the residents of many Community Councils across the Hillside with borders along Chugach State Park, it will also benefit everyone across Anchorage, throughout Alaska, and hundreds of thousands of visitors. Visitors to Anchorage support many businesses and are major contributors to our local and state economies; trailhead improvements would provide additional reasons for them to extend their visits, increasing their contributions.

2) Disaster Evacuation Routes and Fire Prevention/Mitigation for the Anchorage Hillside: These two Resilience/Firewise proposals are also supported by Community Councils across Anchorage's Hillside, as well as the RCCC. Evacuation routes were identified as a priority community need in the 2010 Hillside District Plan. The McHugh Creek fire showed us how the need for these connections is long overdue and the recent avalanche stranding ~100 homes along Hiland Road reinforces the need for disaster preparedness. The requested \$250,000 will support planning and low-cost egress options for wildfire and other potential disasters, with additional funds later needed to fully satisfy this need. Another \$200,000 will address forest health on parklands, providing additional fire prevention and mitigation.

3) South Potter Marsh pullout amenities and improvements: This \$780,251 request would be added to a project that is already funded (\$1.7 million) and slated for construction this summer (2022) but where increased supply costs and changes in match requirements resulted in this shortfall. Potter Marsh within the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for residents across Anchorage, as well as those from around Alaska, and visitors to our state. The requested funds would ensure essential health facilities (toilets) and safety improvements (pedestrian crossings including for kids accessing their school bus, boardwalk, parking) are not cut from the existing project.

Thank you for your attention to these projects. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair



Michelle Turner, Co-chair

cc: John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly  
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly  
Representative James Kaufman  
Senator Roger Holland  
Senator Josh Revak  
Representative Laddie Shaw  
Representative Calvin Schrage



*Protecting the integrity & biological diversity of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge....*



**FRIENDS OF  
THE  
ANCHORAGE  
COASTAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE (FAR)**

PO Box 220196  
Anchorage, AK  
99522-0196

Phone: 907-248-2503  
Fax: 907-248-3159  
email: [bc@farak.org](mailto:bc@farak.org)

The Honorable Senators, Click Bishop and Bert Stedman, Co-Chairs, The Honorable Senators, Lyman Hoffman, Natasha von Imhof, David Wilson, Donald Olson, and Bill Wielechowski

The Honorable Representative Neal Foster, Chair, and The Honorable Representatives Louise Stutes, Bryce Edgmon, Chris Tuck, Kelly Merrick, Cathy Tilton, Laddie Shaw, and Steve Thompson

Re: Support for South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout – Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

2022.3.29

Dear Co-Chair Senators Click Bishop and Bert Stedman, and Senate Finance Committee Members; and Chair Representative Neal Foster and House Finance Committee Members:

I write with support for the **South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout – Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, Remodel, Reconstruction, and Upgrades, Sponsored by Senator Holland and Representative Kaufman, for FY2023 State Funding Request: \$780,251**, on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR), a 501 c-3 nonprofit in good standing with the State of Alaska. The Potter Marsh upgrades for which a conceptual plan has existed since 2014, could be accomplished readily and could help get more people back to work. Through the attachments you will see that the project has been through a public review process at the local level and is a community priority.

Through mindful planning for this popular resident and visitor destination, this project will promote public health, public safety, wildlife and habitat education, and encourage appropriate use of the resource, while discouraging nuisance uses at the south end parking lot and marsh area. We wrote with support of the initial similar plan on 2021.3.9. This private public partnership project scheduled to start fall of 2021 was delayed due to a shortfall of funding and COVID-related fallout such as cost increases and supply chain issues. With this funding it can be rescheduled to begin spring/summer. ConocoPhillips donated an enormous amount originally for this project already having contributed about \$2.5 million for the Master Interpretive Plan completed summer of 2007, guiding the latest boardwalk extension completed in 2008. Providing money to address the identified upgrades will help make the highest use of the funding already acquired and enhance what currently exists by making it more functional, expanding wildlife viewing and targeted recreation wisely, with an eye to aesthetic values.

Potter Marsh has become wildly popular for nature and wildlife viewing with state, national, and international visitors. Located at mile 117 of the Seward Highway, a nationally designated, All-American Road, Potter Marsh is a stunningly scenic, highly

accessible, natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resource attracts tens of thousands annually. The world class facility provides needed restrooms along the highway and is a beloved community asset and the current upgrade plan has neighborhood and community support. This will help Potter Marsh continue to fuel our economy, the love visitors have for our great state, and continue to make Alaska the place we love to live, raise our families, and retire.

Thank you to Senator Roger Holland and Representative James Kaufman for working with the Rabbit Creek Community Council to sponsor this timely funding request. Completing this now, is the opportunity all the earlier planning anticipated, and we should absolutely take advantage to get it done for residents and visitors, and for the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Potter Marsh is an asset of which Alaskans are proud thanks to the brilliance, forethought, and meticulous work that has already gone into making it a perpetual destination. Without the needed funds, all that can be done now is the parking lot upgrade, with no boardwalk or viewing platforms, so, no destination.

Background: This seemingly natural area was created artificially with the impounding of wetlands by the railroad in 1916-17 when they built an embankment across Turnagain Arm. Through other changes it gradually evolved and by 1960 Potter Marsh had become popular for wildlife viewing. After more water impoundment with Seward Highway construction, in 1971 Potter Marsh became part of Potter Point State Game Refuge. In 1983 a planning task force was established to develop a comprehensive management plan for Potter Marsh. The Alaska Legislature expanded and renamed the game refuge in 1988 when it became part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR.) In 2006 the planning team for the Potter Marsh Master Interpretive Plan involved Alaska State Parks, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG); partners and consultants included the Anchorage School District, Audubon Alaska, Bird Treatment and Learning Center (Bird TLC), ConocoPhillips, FAR, Great Land Trust, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The plan recommended periodic updates to consider changing market and site characteristics. This work would help meet those objectives.

Around 2014 ADFG with collaboration from the USFWS, Alaska Audubon, Bird TLC, and FAR visited key locations around Potter Marsh and discussed how this magnificent place could be maintained in the future and gave input throughout development of a concept plan for upgrades that could be made when the opportunity arose through the eventual expansion work of the Seward Highway. While that has not materialized as soon as we had hoped this funding will be greatly helpful.

Let's do this and help get people back to work by providing the remaining funding for this uplifting project just waiting in the wings. It would be such a boost for citizens now. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

*Barbara Švarný Carlson*

Barbara Švarný Carlson  
President and Executive Director

Attachments:

2022.3.29.FARsupportSPM.pdf  
2022\_8 RCCC CAPSI recs to Finance Comms.pdf  
S Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout – Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Cc: Senator Mia Costello  
Representative Sara Rasmussen

Austin Quinn Davidson, Anchorage Assembly  
Kameron Perez Verdia, Anchorage Assembly  
John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly  
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly  
Senator Roger Holland  
Senator Josh Revak  
Representative Laddie Shaw  
Representative Calvin Schrage

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Respectfully,

[Barbara Švarný Carlson](#)

Barbara Švarný Carlson

President and Executive Director

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Attachments:

2022.3.29.FARsupportSPM.pdf

cc: Senator Mia Costello

Austin Quinn Davidson, Anchorage Assembly

Kameron Perez Verdia, Anchorage Assembly

John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly

Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly

Senator Roger Holland

Senator Josh Revak

Representative Laddie Shaw

Representative Calvin Schrage



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**From:** Royann Royer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 8:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Subject:** Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs, support cultural stories that connect us, and promote a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snow machining, hunting, and fishing to travel and tourism. These projects are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders. Please support the following projects:

1. Alaska Long Trail—including funding for wayfinding to our existing 33-mile “Moose Loop” trail infrastructure to the Alaska Long Trail. (CAPSIS 66548)
2. The Tikahtnu – Cook Inlet National Heritage Designation Feasibility Study can bring in millions of dollars and further build community with the stories of our heritage. (CAPSIS 66614)
3. The Alaska Long Trail Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study to connect Anchorage to Eklutna and Palmer and north to Fairbanks by trail. (CAPSIS 66550)
4. The Anchorage Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Placemaking is good for the economy of this region and will enhance the visitor experience. (CAPSIS 66549)

Sincerely,

Alaska Resident

Royann Royer CDA RDH MPH  
Director Healthy Smiles Forever  
(Associate of Christian Health Associates)  
[REDACTED] [hsf@christianhealth.org](mailto:hsf@christianhealth.org)

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**From:** Kevin Desmond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Cc:** Kevin Desmond  
**Subject:** Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs, support cultural stories that connect us, and promote a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snow machining, hunting, and fishing to travel and tourism. These projects are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders. Please support the following projects:

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4. The Anchorage Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Placemaking is good for the economy of this region and will enhance the visitor experience. (CAPSIS 66549)

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Kevin Desmond  
[REDACTED]  
Girdwood, Alaska  
99587

(46-year Alaska Resident)

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**From:** Janigo, Cathy D. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:18 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Subject:** Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects.

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Sincerely,

Alaska Resident  
Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department Staff.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Dawn Dinwoodie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Subject:** Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs, support cultural stories that connect us, and promote a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snow machining, hunting, and fishing to travel and tourism. These projects are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders. Please support the following projects:

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4. The Anchorage Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Placemaking is good for the economy of this region and will enhance the visitor experience. (CAPSIS 66549)

Sincerely,

Dawn Dinwoodie

Alaska Resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** Lucy Peckham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:28 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Subject:** Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Obviously, the following letter in Italics is the recommended language from the Alaska Parks Foundation. As a long time resident of Anchorage, when I bought my house, one of my highest priorities was access to trails and parks. The maintenance and improvements of these fine amenities in our communities is something on which I place a HIGH value.

All of the priorities listed below are import to me. Considering Items #1 and #3, I have been a long trail backpacker in the Lower 48 (and once in Europe) and would love nothing more than the development of long trails here in Alaska. What a draw and economic boon that will be. Considering items #2 and #4, I can point to the marvel that is the self-guided trail with listening stations recently installed in downtown Juneau. What a wonderful addition to the community, with local Native voices, history and stories. It adds such depth and richness to the experience of discovering Juneau.

Please support all these recommendations by the Alaska Parks Foundation!

Sincerely,  
Lucy Peckham  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507

I am a small business owner, an artist/collaborator, a teacher, and an Alaska "super-voter."

*Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,*

*Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs, support cultural stories that connect us, and promote a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snow machining, hunting, and fishing to travel and tourism. These projects are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders. Please support the following projects:*

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- 4. The Anchorage Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Placemaking is good for the economy of this region and will enhance the visitor experience. (CAPSIS 66549)*

*Sincerely,*

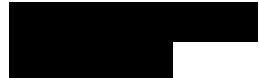


*Alaska Resident*

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Lucy Peckham

[www.both-ears.com](http://www.both-ears.com)



~ she/her/hers

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**From:** Riki Lebman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2022 4:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance; House Finance  
**Subject:** We Support Park & Trail Infrastructure Projects in Capital Budget

Dear Honorable House and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and commitment to Alaska. As you work to prepare the capital budget, please include these infrastructure projects. These projects create jobs, support cultural stories that connect us, and promote a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snow machining, hunting, and fishing to travel and tourism. These projects are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders. Please support the following projects:

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4. The Anchorage Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Placemaking is good for the economy of this region and will enhance the visitor experience. (CAPSIS 66549) Sincerely,

Alaska Resident,  
Ricarda Lebman and Dave Mesiar  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Cherie Northon <cherie@anchoragecreeks.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2022 3:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. DeLena Johnson; House Finance; Rep. James Kaufman; Sen. Roger Holland; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Sen. Joshua Revak; Matthew Harvey  
**Cc:** Birgit Hagedorn; Isaac Watkins; Alyse Roberts (via Google Docs); Bob Shipley; Valerie Tompkins; Adam McCullough; Alexandra West Jefferies; Donovan Camp; wwmas@muni.org  
**Subject:** Support for Funding of the South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout at the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support for Potter Marsh South Parking Lot improvement.pdf

Dear all,

Attached is a letter of support for funding of the South Potter Marsh Visitor Turnout.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Cherie Northon

--

Cherie Northon, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Anchorage Waterways Council  
P.O. Box 241774  
Anchorage, AK 99524  
(907) 272-7335  
[www.anchoragecreeks.org](http://www.anchoragecreeks.org)

Follow and "Like" us on Facebook at "[Anchorage Waterways Council](#)" and "[Scoop the Poop Anchorage](#)"