



Alaska Dog Mushers Association



PO Box 70662* Fairbanks, Alaska 99707*(907) 460-MUSH
info@alaskadogmushers.com www.alaskadogmushers.com

February 18, 2026

Dear Senators Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, Merrick, Kiehl, Kaufman, and Cronk:

The Alaska Dog Mushers Association respectfully writes in support of the proposed changes to SB 170. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit club, we rely heavily on our Gaming Permit (1133) to sustain our operations and community programming.

Founded in 1953, we are one of the oldest dog mushing clubs in Alaska and host multiple sprint races in Fairbanks each winter, including the Open North American Sled Dog Championship, widely known as the "Granddaddy" of them all. This year marks the 80th running of this historic event.

In addition to maintaining our Musher's Hall facility, gaming revenues are essential to covering the costs associated with hosting races, maintaining trails, supporting volunteers, and ensuring the long-term stability of our club. Currently, more than one-third of our operating budget is derived from gaming proceeds. A loss or reduction of this funding would significantly impact our ability to continue offering races and programming at their current level.

Without these funds, we would likely be forced to scale back or eliminate some events that serve as key attractions for winter tourism in the Fairbanks area and contribute to the local economy and cultural heritage of Alaska.

We understand that policy changes take time, and we support thoughtful improvements to existing systems. We appreciate your consideration and continued support of organizations like ours that preserve Alaska's traditions while serving our communities.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Shannon L. Erhart
Alaska Dog Mushers Association, Inc. Vice-President