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March 4, 2026

Alaska Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Opposition to SB253

Dear members of the Alaska Senate Resources Committee:

On behalf of Matson, we respectfully ask that you oppose SB253. This bill, which restricts the use of common maritime fuel in vessels operating in Alaska, would impose immediate and significant risks to the state's supply chain, cost of living, and maritime commerce.

For more than 140 years, Matson has served as a critical lifeline for non-contiguous communities across the Pacific, delivering essential goods and supporting local economies. In Alaska, Matson provides vital, dependable freight service to Anchorage, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor—moving food, household goods, building materials, vehicles, and even medical supplies. According to a McDowell study, 90% of Alaskans rely on goods that come from ocean carriers that call at the Port of Alaska in Anchorage. These Alaskans rely on regular ocean shipping services, which this legislation could prevent.

Direct Threat to Essential Alaska Supply Lines

Fuel that is used to power Matson's Alaska fleet could be banned under SB253. Matson takes its commitment to environmental stewardship extremely seriously as an operator in some of the most pristine environments in the world. As such, Matson's vessels serving Alaska use closed-loop exhaust scrubber systems that exceed State of Alaska and International Maritime Organization emission standards. Since Matson already exceeds such stringent standards, SB253 will do relatively little to improve the environment while potentially depriving communities of essential goods.

SB253's ban on common maritime fuels disregards the impact on Alaska's cargo industry, families and the Alaska economy. Furthermore, it disregards real world emissions performance while not meaningfully advancing Alaska's environmental goals.

Instead, SB253 could cause severe disruption to essential lifeline shipping, raise costs for families and businesses, and undermine ocean carriers already investing heavily in cleaner technology. The bill's exemption process is discretionary, not guaranteed, making it possible that Matson could lose the ability to operate in Alaska.

Because of the risks SB253 poses to Alaska's supply chain and the families and businesses that rely on Matson's essential ocean shipping services, we respectfully ask you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tungul
Senior Vice President, Alaska
Matson