



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
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March 16, 2026

Via Email

The Honorable George Rauscher, District 0
The Honorable Garret Nelson, District 29
State of Alaska

RE: Support for SB 230 and HB 309 – Jonesville Public Use Area Boundary Adjustment

Dear Senator Rauscher and Representative Nelson,

I am writing in support of SB 230 and HB 309 and its proposed adjustment to remove a Borough-owned parcel from the Jonesville Public Use Area.

SB 230 and HB 309 provide a thoughtful and targeted update to the statutory boundaries of the Jonesville Public Use Area by amending AS 41.23.286. As written, the bill allows for a clear delineation between lands intended for long-term public use management by the State and parcels that are more appropriately managed at the local level. We support the inclusion of the quarter section in Section 21, as the addition to the JPUA boundary is necessary to incorporate the lower parking lot and camping area below Slipper Lake, which includes the first entry road and parking lot located below the proposed shooting range site.

Importantly, these bills do not diminish the overall purpose of the Jonesville Public Use Area. The bill instead makes a precise correction that improves administrative clarity for future planning purposes without undermining public access or the broader goals of the area.

For the Borough, this boundary adjustment supports sound planning and coordination with State agencies on adjacent lands. This type of cooperative and well-defined land management framework benefits both the State and local governments and helps avoid future conflicts or inefficiencies.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for advancing legislation that promotes clear, effective, and practical land management. I appreciate your consideration and respectfully encourage continued support for these bills.

Sincerely,

Michael Brown
Borough Manager

cc: Mr. John Harris