

House Labor & Commerce Committee

April 15, 2026

IN RE: HB386 – A Statement in Support

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of Diamond Game, a charity gaming manufacturer providing electronic pull tabs and similar products across North America, we support HB386. Based on our 32 years of experience in charity and lottery gaming markets, we find HB386 to be a well-crafted bill that addresses the significant issues surrounding electronic pull tabs in an even-handed manner.

Diamond Game is proud of our long history, and that of our sister companies, of supporting charity gaming throughout North America, including Alaska. Charity gaming provides important funding to worthy causes through the private sector, freeing many non-profits from relying solely on public funding. HB386, if enacted, will continue, and enhance, the fundraising efforts of Alaska non-profits, help charity gaming stay relevant in today's video age through the use of electronic pull tabs on a tablet, and generate incremental revenue for charities and local businesses.

In particular, a few components of the bill stand out to us as positive. These are:

- Tablets only, not cabinets. While Diamond Game proudly manufactures and operates cabinets in numerous markets in the United States, we recognize that the State of Alaska is not prepared to move forward with electronic pull tabs in a cabinet format. We have witnessed, in too many jurisdictions, that parties seeking “cabinets or nothing” or a special exception for cabinets for certain types of organizations or locations, stand in the way of progress for charity gaming.
- Tablet electronics have proven to be complementary and incremental to existing paper pull tab fundraising. In Minnesota, traditional paper pull tab gross sales increased ~100%, from \$1,054,000,000 in 2013 to \$2,048,000,000 in 2024, while electronic pull tab gross sales *on a tablet* grew from \$0 to \$2,670,000,000 over the same period, proving that electronics can be complementary and incremental to existing and traditional paper charity gaming.
- Section 33 (5), Page 17: Autoclose: We support the autoclose feature because it benefits both players and charities which ultimately increases charitable proceeds. Autoclose ensures top prizes are always available to be won by players, and it also helps charities by preventing loss of players and revenue once the top prizes have already been claimed.
- Section 38 (k) Page 19 lines 17-19: We support this limit on the number of tablets per site.

- Section 42 (l) Page 20 lines 13-15 and (n) Page 20 line 20: Vendor limit of 25%: We support this percentage limit to Vendors. It is a reasonable middle ground provided by the bill drafters—it is not the lowest share seen in other markets nor is it the highest share seen in other markets.

Based on our experience in other markets, HB386 addresses the essential legal issues needed to responsibly develop a new charity gaming product. Moreover, charity gaming issues—including those discussed in HB386—will continue to evolve as regulations and laws are updated.

Thank you for bringing forward this important piece of legislation in support of charity gaming.

Sincerely,



Bill Breslo  
President

**From:** [rossbbeal@gmail.com](mailto:rossbbeal@gmail.com)  
**To:** [rossbbeal@gmail.com](mailto:rossbbeal@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Alaska Gaming HB 386  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:36:13 AM

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The Alaska Trappers Association depends on charitable gaming revenue to support our mission. Please support HB386 and help protect this important funding source for Alaska nonprofits.



Alaska Wholesale LLC  
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4/21/2026

**Re: Support for HB 386 / Companion to SB 170**

To the Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee:

My name is Matt Fischer, and I am the owner of Alaska Wholesale LLC in Kasilof. We are an Alaska-owned charitable gaming distributor, and my family has been involved in this industry in Alaska for more than 30 years. I am writing in strong support of HB 386, the House companion to SB 170.

Charitable gaming is extremely important to nonprofits across Alaska. The organizations that rely on this revenue are deeply woven into the fabric of our state. Youth sports, senior programs, veterans organizations, fraternal groups, and many other community-based nonprofits depend on charitable gaming proceeds to continue serving Alaskans.

There is also strong and widespread support for this legislation. That matters. Charitable gaming has many nuances, and people in this industry do not always agree on every detail. But this bill has brought together broad support because so many of us recognize the same basic reality: nonprofits need a path forward that reflects today's costs and today's market.

As an Alaska-owned distributor, we strongly support that effort. We live here, we work here, and we understand how important it is that Alaska's charitable gaming system continue to serve Alaska nonprofits as effectively as possible.

We also understand that the economics of the current paper-only model have become more difficult, especially in rural Alaska. Paper costs more, freight costs more, and operating costs more, yet the selling price remains fixed. That creates a particular disadvantage for smaller and rural communities. Although shipping is generally paid by the distributor, those costs are built into pricing, meaning rural operators ultimately pay more. At the same time, many rural locations do not use paper products in high enough volume to receive the same quantity discounts available in larger markets. They face higher effective costs, but still must sell the same \$1 ticket. That makes the current system especially difficult for rural Alaska.

The urgency of this bill is very real. We recently received notice of a 5 percent increase in our paper cost, and shipping rates were already up 38 percent even before the current Middle East issues. We expect much more in the way of increases in both shipping and paper costs. Alaska nonprofits cannot afford to wait until next session for this bill. The pressure on the current system is not hypothetical. It is happening now.

That is one of the reasons this legislation matters. It gives nonprofits another tool to remain competitive and generate revenue without relying entirely on a model that has become harder and harder to sustain, particularly in smaller and rural markets.



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I also want to specifically recognize Senator Bjorkman's work on this issue. Charitable gaming is not simple. It involves many moving parts, many stakeholders, and many competing concerns. We believe Senator Bjorkman has done an outstanding job of balancing the needs of the industry while at the same time ensuring this bill is truly about giving nonprofits the best possible outcome.

I also want to briefly address two concerns that have been raised about the bill.

First, some of the discussion around the manufacturer and distributor share treats the number in the bill as though it were a required rate and as though it were pure profit. It is neither. The bill sets a cap, not a mandate, so the parties remain free to negotiate a lower rate. And that share should not be confused with profit, because the vast majority of those dollars are reinvested back into creating new games and continuing product development. It is also not accurate to suggest that electronic games are cheaper to produce simply because they are not paper products. These systems require significant investment in development, programming, testing, and certification. Our selected partner, Pilot Games, spends over \$300,000 to develop a single game and has been producing roughly one new game every week for the Minnesota market.

Second, the concern about payout percentage should be viewed in light of how different charitable gaming environments actually operate. Electronic pull-tabs can support more player-friendly payouts because they function on a revenue-share basis rather than the same structure as paper pull-tabs. It is also important to understand that different venues can succeed with different payout strategies. A bingo hall may be able to support lower-payout games because customers are already there to play bingo, while a pull-tab store must offer more chances to win in order to attract players. That is one of the many nuances in charitable gaming. A location that wants lower-payout games can still work with the manufacturer to offer products that fit that location.

That balance is exactly why this bill has earned such broad support. It is not about changing charitable gaming for the sake of change. It is about strengthening a system that helps fund important community organizations all across Alaska and making sure that system remains viable in the years ahead.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB 386.

Sincerely,

Matt Fischer

Owner

Alaska Wholesale LLC

Kasilof, Alaska



Alaska CHARR Educational Fund  
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Anchorage, AK 99503  
907.274.8133  
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**4.24.2026**

Chair Zack Fields  
Co-Chair Carolyn Hall  
and Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Support for HB 386 and SB 170

Dear Chair Fields, Co-Chair Hall, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Alaska CHARR Educational Fund, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 386 and Senate Bill 170, both of which are critically important to nonprofit organizations that rely on charitable pull-tab revenue to fund workforce development and education programs serving Alaskans across the state.

The Alaska CHARR Educational Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to cultivating and supporting a knowledgeable and skilled workforce for Alaska's hospitality industry. Our work includes workforce training initiatives, industry-recognized education programs, and a scholarship program that helps Alaskans access credentialing, education, and career advancement opportunities. These efforts are designed to meet workforce needs in both urban and rural communities and to support long-term economic stability within Alaska's hospitality sector.

Charitable pull tab proceeds generated through licensed locations are a meaningful and reliable source of funding for our programs. This revenue directly supports program delivery, scholarship awards, and the administrative capacity necessary to operate statewide workforce initiatives. The ability to sustainably generate these funds determines not only whether programs grow, but whether they can be maintained year over year. HB 386 and SB 170 work together to modernize Alaska's charitable gaming framework in a way that reflects current consumer behavior while reinforcing strong regulatory oversight. From our perspective as a charitable beneficiary, the authorization and clear regulation of electronic pull tabs creates an opportunity to improve fundraising consistency while preserving the core charitable structure, predetermined outcomes, and accountability measures that protect the integrity of charitable gaming.

SB 170 establishes comprehensive standards governing electronic pull-tab systems, including licensing endorsements, prize limits, technical safeguards, reporting requirements, age restrictions, and enforcement authority. These provisions ensure that electronic pull tabs remain firmly rooted in charitable fundraising rather than commercial gambling, while providing nonprofits with a modern, regulated tool to generate sustainable revenue. The bill's clarity around operator qualifications, distributor responsibilities, and financial reporting further strengthens transparency and public confidence in the system.

The predictability and efficiency associated with electronic pull tabs is especially important for workforce development and scholarship planning. Reliable fundraising allows our organization to commit to training cycles, expand access to scholarships, and invest in long-term partnerships with employers and educators. Without modernization efforts such as those proposed in HB 386 and SB 170, charitable programs risk stagnation or contraction at a time when workforce shortages remain a significant challenge across Alaska.

We appreciate that both bills include clear guardrails to ensure charitable gaming proceeds remain focused on public benefit. Strong oversight, reporting requirements, safeguards against conflicts of interest, and limits on prize structures help protect the integrity of the system while enabling nonprofits to responsibly fund essential services.

From the standpoint of an organization that converts charitable gaming proceeds directly into education, training, and career opportunities for Alaskans, HB 386 and SB 170 support the stability, sustainability, and accountability of that work. Updating Alaska's charitable gaming statutes helps ensure nonprofit workforce and scholarship programs can continue to meet evolving needs without compromising oversight or public trust. For these reasons, the Alaska CHARR Educational Fund respectfully supports both HB 386 and SB 170 and appreciates the committee's consideration of their importance to charitable organizations delivering workforce and educational outcomes across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective. Please feel free to reach out if we can be a resource as you continue your deliberations.

Respectfully,



BreeAnna K Erickson

President & CEO, Alaska CHARR Educational Fund

Matthew Christenson

Gold Cache Bingo  
110 East Fireweed Lane  
Anchorage, Alaska

██████████  
4/22/26

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Alaska House Bill 386, along with a few targeted adjustments that will help ensure its long-term effectiveness and relevance.

My name is Matthew Christenson, and I am with Gold Cache Bingo, working with six charities in the Pribilof Islands and Kodiak area. Through this work, I see firsthand how charitable gaming supports communities and the challenges operators, MBP's and nonprofits face under current regulations.

This bill is modeled in part after Minnesota's charitable gaming structure, which has demonstrated strong and sustainable success. Minnesota allows both \$5 pull tabs and \$1,000 top prizes, and their program continues to perform very well. I have personally traveled to Minnesota multiple times this past summer to observe their system firsthand and have spoken with many operators and organizations there as well as locally who share the same positive perspective. Importantly, these updates have not resulted in intrusive or negative impacts on communities—they have simply allowed the system to keep pace with the times.

Under current law, charitable gaming in Alaska is effectively operating under a structure that has changed very little in over 30 years. Caps, denominations, and prize limits have remained largely stagnant, despite significant increases in the cost of doing business. In many ways, the charitable gaming industry is essentially trapped in a box—unable to adjust pricing, modernize offerings, or scale operations to keep up with inflation and rising costs. Inflation, along with rising shipping and printing costs, continues to shrink margins for operators and charities alike. At the same time, pricing flexibility is limited—no one is willing to pay \$2 for a \$1 pull tab—yet operators also cannot offset these pressures through increased volume due to existing caps per charity.

For these reasons, I support the addition of \$5 pull tabs and an increase to a \$1,000 top prize. These updates would modernize the system and allow charitable gaming to better align with current economic realities.

In addition, the inclusion of electronic pull tabs should be viewed as an evolution of existing charitable gaming—not an expansion into large or intrusive gaming environments. These systems are designed to function as a digital extension of the products already being offered, rather than introducing widespread cabinet-style gaming. Electronic pull tabs can significantly reduce costs related to labor, shipping, raw materials, and other logistics involved in moving physical products from origin to destination. These efficiencies ultimately allow more proceeds to flow directly to charities.

Finally, I encourage the committee to consider implementing a 25% cap on distributor and manufacturer costs associated with electronic pull tabs. Establishing this safeguard would help ensure that a greater share of proceeds remains with the charities these programs are designed to support. At its core, charitable gaming should prioritize maximizing benefits for nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve.

In a gaming environment with shrinking margins, these updates will help charities remain sustainable and continue serving the communities they represent into the future. Many of these organizations provide vital resources to individuals who may not otherwise be able to afford them, while others support entire communities in ways that help ease the burden on government services.

HB 386 is a strong piece of legislation, and with these thoughtful adjustments, it can better reflect current economic realities while protecting the intent behind charitable gaming in Alaska. I respectfully urge the committee to advance this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Christenson



Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee  
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www.k300.org

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April, 22 2026

The Alaska House Labor and Commerce Committee  
via email: [House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)

Re: House Bill 386 and electronic pulltabs

Committee Members,,

I write today to advocate for the passage of HB 386. The K300 Race Committee supports the modernization of Charitable Gaming in Alaska, specifically as it relates to electronic pull tabs. Charitable Gaming is a critical part of our fundraising efforts and thus the pursuit of our mission to support the tradition of dog mushing in Southwest Alaska. The evidence is clear that in other states the introduction of electronic pulltabs has increased fundraising power and we are enthusiastic about the ways in which increased revenue might help us grow in the future.

We support HB 386 as written but there are some details we hope to see changed before there is a final vote:

Section 22 g-i: Concerning the maximum prize payouts a permittee may distribute annually -

Currently permit holders such as the K300 are allowed to distribute a maximum of \$2,000,000 in prizes each year. Proposed changes would add an additional \$4,000,000 annually but only for electronic pulltabs. We see no benefit to making this distinction between paper and electronic prizes and urge you support a single, cumulative cap of \$6,000,000 that applies to all charitable gaming activities conducted by the permit holder.

Section 32 a(6): Concerning allowable devices for conducting electronic pulltabs -

The bill as written states that electronic pulltabs may only be conducted on tablets with screens no larger than 13". Our research indicates that cabinet and table top units that remain in a fixed location allow for much more efficient operations and generate substantially more revenue. Our understanding is that limiting charities to tablets is based on a model used in Minnesota but we see no reason to emulate that system when it's evident that electronic pulltabs are even more successful in states that allow vendors to choose their devices based on what works best for their space and their customers. We also understand that limiting electronic pulltabs to tablets would specifically benefit one particular distributor in the state. Please support permit holder choice when it comes to electronic pulltabs devices.

During the 2025-26 Race Season the K300 Race Committee hosted 7 professional events and distributed over \$450,000 in prize money and we are on pace to do the same this season. Every year, the vast majority of that prize money stays here on the Kuskokwim, benefitting local mushers and kennel owners. In addition to holding races and distributing prize money we use our resources and sponsor relationships to connect Kuskokwim mushers with feed, straw and other needs at the best possible cost. As a result, mushing continues to thrive in Southwest Alaska while it suffers in most other parts of the state, but the future is not guaranteed. Increasing our fundraising capabilities will help us to meet rising operational costs and new challenges we are sure to face. Thank you for your support for the Kuskokwim 300 and for considering our input on HB 386.

Sincerely, Paul Basile  
K300 Race Manager

**From:** [Lewis Jerry](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** SB 386  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 2:46:43 PM

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Representative Fields.

Thank you for the time,

I am Jerry Lewis an operator in the state, I run Northern Lights Bingo and Rippie World and I contract with over 50 charities across the state. I have been in gaming all of my professional career in Alaska, Colorado and Nevada and I have seen all sorts of versions of gaming, and Alaska's charitable gaming model is the best I have ever seen.

I understand that you are putting together HB386, to help move along SB170. SB170 has several issues and as such, most operators in the state can not support the current bill. If these items were addressed you could gain the support of the block that generates over 50% of the gaming revenue in the state.

I want to one to be assured that this bill if passed, will completely change charitable gaming in Alaska.

Alaska is the only place in the world that Pull-Tab stores exist. Being run by nonprofits and operators alike. Also Alaska is the only place that has operators contracting with nonprofits to run bingo halls and pull-tab stores. Most other states have volunteers running bingo sporadically.

I am sure you have heard that SB170 mimics the Minnesota bill and how well Minnesota is doing with e-tabs. Let me assure you this is not accurate.

Because no other State runs charitable gaming the way Alaska does, the bill is written to heavily favors locations selling alcohol because that is how every other state sell pull-tabs. In Alaska, in 2024 locations selling alcohol only generated 10% of net proceeds paid to charities. While Operators generate over 50% of net proceeds paid to charities.

If we are going to reference the Minnesota model, then let's be clear about what that actually is:

<!--[endif]-->Minnesota limits the number of tablets allowed in establishments serving alcohol to 6. SB170's limit is 10 per location.

<!--[endif]-->Minnesota also limits the amount a location serving alcohol can retain to no more than 15% of the profit of a game. SB170 proposes a limit of 25%. This is a significant difference. We must be very careful here, especially in situations where operators and permittees rent space within a bar to conduct gaming. Any restriction should clearly apply to the establishment itself.

<!--[endif]-->Additionally, Minnesota limits what a manufacturer can charge for a game to 25%, including any tax. SB170 sets that limit at 35% and does not include the 3% tax. Currently we are paying about 20% for paper games. Paper games have a significantly higher cost to produce than electronic games and it has a continual fixed cost where e-tabs do not. I am not sure why you would pay more for e-tabs than paper.

I have heard that we have to pass this bill because paper cost is out of control. Everyone knows that the demand for paper is down. Paper prices are steady, and in today's market that is saying something.

The way the bill is currently written it would certainly lead to the end of pull-tab stores and many bingo halls, thereby reducing the opportunity for charities to be funded and devastating charitable gaming as we know it. Everyone says that the amount spent on charitable gaming will double with e-tabs. But what they don't say is that unless it does double charities will not even break even.

The bill would be easier to support if it actually did mimic the Minnesota model, but it doesn't for these reasons I cannot support the current bill, and I urge everyone on this committee to tread carefully, this bill will change the charitable gaming industry in Alaska and Alaska currently has the gold standard for charitable gaming in the United States.

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Jerry Lewis  
President  
ATM Alaska/Northern Lights Bingo  
Cell(907)227-5564  
Office (907)929-2861

4/24/26

Dear House Labor & Commerce Members,

My name is Jack Heesch. I am the President and Primary Member in Charge of a small non-profit, Anchorage Youth and Recreation. (AY&R)

Our main focus is fastpitch softball. We, together with a number of like-minded groups in a loose coalition in Anchorage provide organized play for girls as young as 10 and Under to 18 and Under. In total some 200 to 250 young women play this team sport under our auspices.

We receive no financial support from the School District and each school has to raise its own funds to participate. AY&R provides financial support to each of the schools.

The funding AY&R receives through charitable gaming finds ways to support all of these aspects of a program that receives little recognition or acknowledgement.

In considering HB 386/SB170, please be aware of the potential unintended consequences of this action.

Please take care to protect a system that is working and benefitting Alaskans throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Jack Heesch  
1808 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK





**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA**  
**JACK HENRY POST 1**

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April 28, 2026

TO: House Labor & Commerce Committee  
SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 386

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

As Commander of Jack Henry Post 1 of the American Legion, I am writing in support of House Bill 386. Our post has a long history of serving veterans, their families, and the Anchorage community they call home. That service continues today through the work of our members and the role we play in bringing people together.

The work we do is grounded in the four pillars of the American Legion, and those are not just words to us. We see it in how we support veterans as they navigate life after service through Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. We see it in our continued involvement and responsibility to community and country through National Security. We see it in the way we stay active in Anchorage and promote pride in our community through Americanism. And we see it in the time and resources we invest in programs like Alaska Boys State and other youth efforts that help develop the next generation through Children and Youth. These are not separate efforts. They are part of the same commitment to service that defines our post.

For years, paper pull tabs have helped provide the resources needed to carry out that mission. They remain an important and valued part of our operations. House Bill 386 allows us to build on that foundation in a responsible way so we can continue serving our community as costs rise and needs grow, what matters most is that the impact stays local. The support generated through our post goes directly back into Anchorage, supporting veterans, strengthening community efforts, and ensuring these programs continue.

This is about continuing the work we have always done. Serving veterans and the communities they call home.

Respectfully,

Justin Mills  
Post Commander  
Jack Henry Post 1



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Douglas, AK 99824

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FTFAKFoundation.org  
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**Subject: Amend SB 170 - Preserve Charitable Gaming for Alaska Nonprofits**

Dear Senator/Representative:

**Frank Bergstrom**  
President

The First Things First Alaska Foundation is a Southeast Alaska-based nonprofit dedicated to strengthening our state's economic vitality and community resilience. We achieve this through public education that promotes responsible resource development and sound management practices.

**Jason Palmer**  
Vice President

**Wayne Coogan**  
Secretary

Charitable gaming has long played a vital role in Alaska by enabling nonprofits to fund education, civic engagement, community programs, and local initiatives—without relying on state general funds. Alaska's charitable gaming system is nationally unique and, when functioning as intended, efficiently channels gaming proceeds to directly benefit our communities.

**Neil MacKinnon**  
Treasurer

**Directors**

**Roger Calloway**  
**Dennis DeWitt**  
**Joseph Kahklen**  
**Mac Meiners**  
**JoAnn Wallace**

We recognize the intent of Senate Bill 170 to modernize charitable gaming by introducing optional electronic pull-tabs. However, we are concerned that the bill, as currently written, does not sufficiently protect the proceeds that nonprofits depend on. Provisions allowing substantially higher manufacturer costs, increased revenue retention by alcohol-serving establishments, and narrower profit margins threaten the sustainability of the nonprofit sector.

**In Memoriam**  
**Rosemary Hagevig**  
**John Sandor**

Alaska's charitable gaming model is substantially different from those in other states. Any modernization effort must be tailored to our unique system of dedicated pull-tab stores and licensed operators, who collectively generate most of the charitable gaming revenue statewide.

**Don Habeger**  
Executive Director

For these reasons, the First Things First Alaska Foundation respectfully urges you to **amend SB 170**. Please ensure that modernization efforts do not come at the expense of the nonprofit missions and community benefits that Alaskans rely on.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to policies that keep charitable gaming working for Alaska communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Habeger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Don Habeger  
Executive Director

**First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.**