

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: 8(a) is Crucial for Alaska and our Nation

Dear Mr. President:

Alaska is the Nation's front line in the Arctic, and the community-owned enterprises such as Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) and Tribes that participate in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Program are indispensable to national security, resource independence, and Alaska's economy.¹ ANC and Tribal eligibility is not race-based; it is statutory and reflects Congress's decision to open federal contracting economic-development opportunities to communities serving geographically isolated and economically distressed Americans. The 8(a) Program is on the precipice of devastating ANCs and Alaska Tribes and, as a consequence, Alaska and the Nation.

Administrative concern. SBA has not approved a new 8(a) application since August 2025. Alaska community-owned 8(a)s must have new applications processed to sustain their vital support to the warfighter and their current financial impact to our state.

Regulatory concern. On February 20, 2026, SBA transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information Regulatory Affairs² a proposed rule titled "Fraud, Waste and Abuse Reforms" (RIN 3245-A166). While the text has not been released, this rule is concerning, not because it mentions fraud, but because it is understood to significantly limit community-owned participation in the 8(a) Program. Alaska's ANCs and Tribes support eliminating fraud and abuse. Following SBA's December 2025 Data Call, more than 1,000 firms were suspended in January 2026, yet not a single ANC-owned firm was suspended, demonstrating strong compliance and governance capacity among Alaska's community-owned enterprises. However, reforms that weaken community-owned 8(a) participation weaken national security, economic stability, and domestic energy and mineral independence.

¹ Please see appendix for additional information.

² Available at: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoDetails?rid=1287014>

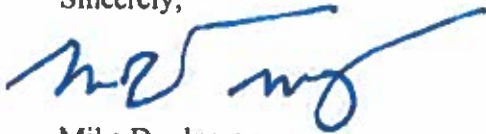
The Honorable Donald J. Trump
March 2, 2026
Page 2 of 4

Here are some actions that would assist Alaska in its critical national security, resource development, and economic development activities:

1. The SBA keeps small businesses open for business by timely processing community-owned 8(a) applications; and
2. That any rule changes from the SBA not materially restrict community-owned 8(a) participation.

Alaska celebrates your Administration's Executive Order 14153 *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential* and stands ready to support all your Administration's priorities in national security, domestic supply chains, resource development, and economic opportunity. Ensuring stability in the community-owned 8(a) framework directly advances these shared objectives. Thank you for continuing to be a champion for Alaska and our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kelly Loeffler, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration
The Honorable Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Nick Begich, United States House of Representatives

Appendix

National Security, Arctic Defense & Homeland Missile Defense

Alaska is the strategic fulcrum of America's Arctic posture. ANC- and Tribal-owned enterprises directly support:

- *Missile defense and homeland protection:* Key homeland defense initiatives—including the Golden Dome missile defense project initiated under your Administration—depend heavily on ANC contracting capacity. ANC enterprises also provide operational sustainment to Fort Greely, home to the Nation's only ground-based defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles aimed at the U.S. homeland.
- *Missile Defense Agency programs:* ANCs support critical MDA infrastructure and manage portions of the SHIELD contract vehicle, a core component of the Nation's layered missile defense architecture. These services enable persistent readiness and rapid response capability.
- *Arctic operations and irregular warfare requirements:* A January 2026 analysis on Arctic homeland defense recommends using multi-year contracts with ANCs for caches, fuel staging, winterized sensors, and remote camps, citing ANCs' unique ability to provide "persistent sustainment" in extreme conditions with unmatched uptime and recovery metrics.

Destabilizing ANC participation in the 8(a) Program would directly impair defense readiness at the exact moment America faces growing strategic competition in the Arctic from China and Russia.

Domestic Energy & Critical Minerals — 49 of 50 Critical Minerals in Alaska

America cannot meet its national security or economic objectives without domestic access to critical minerals. Alaska contains 49 of the 50 critical minerals essential to defense manufacturing, aerospace, semiconductors, and the national energy transition.

ANC-connected operations and contracting capacity are central to this system:

- *Red Dog Mine:* The world's largest zinc mine—operated by an ANC—is indispensable to U.S. defense manufacturing. Zinc protects military equipment, vehicles, aircraft, and infrastructure from corrosion; without Alaska's zinc production, American military capabilities would literally rust.
- *Greens Creek Mine (Juneau):* One of the world's most productive silver mines, producing gold, silver, zinc, lead, and copper—all essential to defense electronics and munitions. Greens Creek relies heavily on ANC contractors and 8(a) workforce capacity.

Your own Administration has recognized that Alaska's critical minerals are "vitally important to America's national defense and economic prosperity." Restricting ANC-owned 8(a) capacity would jeopardize this domestic supply chain at a time when global rivals are tightening their own control of mineral markets.

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

March 2, 2026

Page 4 of 4

Economic Stability in Alaska

ANCs are an economic powerhouse in Alaska, comprising the majority of the top performing Alaska businesses and employing tens of thousands of people. In more than 150 rural Alaska communities, there are no conventional private-sector economies. 8(a) revenues form the backbone of local and regional economies—funding education, jobs, shareholder benefits, workforce development, nonprofit support, language revitalization, and Tribal government programs. Abrupt regulatory changes would create immediate economic harm in regions already facing limited opportunities.