

PETERSVILLE CNPC
P.O. Box 13392
Trapper Creek,
Alaska 99683



February 21, 2019

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to protest your action of removing the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program from the State budget.

As a member of the Petersville Community Non-Profit Corp. and a user of the Petersville Community Snowmobile trail system, I am sorely disappointed about your decision to dissolve the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council and seize funds to be utilized for a purpose for which they were never intended.

I would like to clarify the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program is funded through a self-imposed user tax, or snowmobile registration/point of sale user fees, that has been in place since 1997. The program was intended to be self-sustaining due to the recurring registration fees paid directly to the state DNR and the point of sale registration fees collected by snowmachine dealers. This money was to be used to fund the Trails Grant Program, which would cover grooming operations of approved trails, and safety programs. 12% of the funds cover the costs of State employees administering the program and administrative fees. The grant application process was designed to allocate funds to the various snowmachine clubs and groomers in the State, which had approved snowmachine trails in the Trails Grant Program. The SnowTRAC program was intended to support the local communities and boost the winter tourism and economy.

Please consider that the snowmobilers spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in our winter economy which otherwise would be slow. Winter tourism is on the rise because of the groomed trails, which provide responsible riding and safety.

Groomed trails help in resolving conflict with property owners and land managers where snowmachining is prohibited.

The groomed trails have also helped considerably in the keeping the cost of State of Alaska Search and Rescue to a minimal. With signs, maps and groomed trails, Riders are less likely to get lost. That means the Troopers are called out less so the cost to the State of Alaska is less. Since the groomed trails have been introduced, Petersville Search and Rescue has had less rescues to respond to so these trails provide safety as well.

While I understand that the State is faced with many hard financial decisions, I hope you may consider doing the right thing by reinstating this program. The SnowTRAC program benefits all Alaskans and anyone who wants to enjoy all that Alaska has to offer in the winter. SnowTRAC saves lives, promotes safety, stimulates the economy, and creates jobs.

The SnowTRAC program is a one of a kind in this State and should be an example for other user groups for their service needs so as not to stress the State of Alaska budget.

This letter represents the entities listed below and the Cabin owners of the Petersville Community who has one of the largest trail systems in the State of Alaska, 150 square miles. We have 380 Property/cabin owners who use this trail system for hauling fuel, supplies, and any other necessities.

The trails are multi use so they benefit the following user groups: Dog Teams, Snowmobiles, Hikers, Fat Tire Bikers and Skiers.

Without the SnowTRAC program Alaska will be "closed for business" in the winter.

Respectfully,

Michele Stevens
President
Petersville Community Non-Profit Corp.

This is a list of business, clubs, and lodges that will be directly affected or may closed their doors if the SnowTRAC program is discontinued:

CLUBS

Petersville Community NPC
Curry Ridge Riders
Homer Snomads
Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers
Willow Trail Committee
Alaska Motor Musers
Big Lake Trails
Mat Su Vintage Club
Anchorage Snowmobile Club
Lake Louise Snowmachine Club (Wolfpack)
Valdez Snowmachine Club

LODGES

Skwenta Roadhouse	Fireweed Lodge
Forks Roadhouse	Yentna Station
Alpine Lodge	Gate Creek Cabins
MacLaren River Lodge	McDougal
Eagle Quest Cabins and Lodge	Rebels Roost
Sheep Creek Lodge	Shell Lake Lodge
Eureka Lodge	Telvista Lodge
Sheep Mountain Lodge	Bentalit Lodge
Lake Louise Lodge	CCL
Northwood's Lodge	Freddy's Roadhouse
North Country Inn	Alaska Heritage Lodge
Deshka Wilderness Lodge	Alaska Winter Park Cabins
Pioneer Lodge	Willow Island Resort
Alaska Host B&B	

BUSINESSES

Three Bears Big Lake & Healy
Big Lake Family Restaurant
Aardvark Restaurant
Brewed Oasis Coffee Shop
Cubby's
The Alaska Market Place
Chevron Cantwell
A2D Sledworks

Triple J Restaurant
The Moonshine Shop
Tesoro Big Lake and Talkeetna Y
Newmans Hilltop
Willow Trading Post
Totem Restaurant and Inn
Tesu Cantwell
Alaska Snowmobile Salvage

DEALERS

Hatcher Pass Polaris
McKinley Polaris
Eagle River Polaris/Arctic Cat
Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat
Big Lake Power Sports
Wasilla Arctic Cat & Marine

Anchorage Yamaha/Polaris
Team CC Anchorage/Wasilla
Alaska Mining and Diving
Alaska Cycle Center
House of Yamaha

DOG MUSHING EVENTS

Iditarod
Jr. Iditarod
Klondike 300
Tustumena 300

Susitna 50
Susitna 100
Willow 300
Denali Doubles

FAT TIRE BIKES

Fat tires bikes Alaska

EVENTS

Irondog
Skwenta 200
Numerous fundraisers between lodges
Big Lake Family Fun Run
Petersville Community Fun Run and Easter Egg Hunt
Sponsor Trail rides for locals and tourist