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February 8, 2018

**Senator Cathy Giessel, Senate Resources Committee Chair
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Re: Support for Senate Bill 86

"An Act relating to the sale other disposal, leasing, or encumbrance of Alaska Railroad Corporation land; and providing for an effective date."

Under all this land. Upon its wise utilization and widely allocated ownership depend the survival and growth of free institutions and of our civilization. The Greater Fairbanks Board of REALTORS® recognizes that the interests of this community and its residents require the highest and best use of the land and the widest distribution of land ownership. They require the creation of housing, positive economic development and the preservation of a healthful environment.

Collectively, we believe that allowing the Alaska Railroad to determine which land resources would be best in private hands would have a positive economic impact on residential development in our community. Housing development will not only create new jobs and provide desired housing options for our existing residents, but it also maintains the ability to attract new people to our community. New people moving into the community could, in turn, attract new businesses. The financial impact of residential construction would be felt by a variety of businesses including local lenders, title companies, insurance agents, cable and internet providers, building retailers and local and state government.

With over 220 REALTOR® members and the support of strong local real estate related businesses in our community, we speak with one voice. On behalf of the Greater Fairbanks Board of REALTORS® and its members, we are unified in urging you to support Senate Bill 86.

Sincerely,

**Brittnie Welsh
CEO
Greater Fairbanks Board of REALTORS®**