

**Please note: attached letters to emails begin on page 28.**

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**From:** Heglund-Lohman, Grace <GHeglundLohman@anhb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2024 4:36 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** ANHB LOS for ANTHC Capital Funding Request  
**Attachments:** ANHB LOS to HFIN re ANTHC SNF Capital Request 24.04.09.pdf

Esteemed House Finance Co-Chairs,

The Alaska Native Health Board submits the attached letter of support for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's skilled nursing facility capital funding request. Should you have any questions regarding the letter, please contact ANHB at (907) 729-7510 or by email at [anhb@anhb.org](mailto:anhb@anhb.org).

Sincerely,

Grace Heglund-Lohman, J.D., M.P.H. (she/her)

*Policy Analyst*

**Alaska Native Health Board**

(907) 729-7503

[GHeglundLohman@anhb.org](mailto:GHeglundLohman@anhb.org)

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**From:** Erynn Bell [REDACTED]com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2024 11:02 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Rep. Craig Johnson  
**Subject:** Support for HB 189 and CAPSIS request for Alaska Center for the Performing Arts  
**Attachments:** ACPA Legislative Requests 2024 - HB189 and CAPSIS.pdf

I am writing to show my support for both HB 189 and the CAPSIS Infrastructure Request for Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (info sheet attached for both).

Specifically for the PAC, HB 189 will expand our eligible workforce (much needed!), improve the overall experience for our patrons and will increase revenue and sustainability.

The CAPSIS Infrastructure needed pertains to much needed upgrades to 35 year old elevators and fire suppression systems including the fire panel. These life safety needs are a must to continue the use of this facility for future generations.

I encourage you to read the attached PDF regarding the benefits of both projects/bills.

Thank you,  
Erynn Bell

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99515

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**From:** Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbithcreekcc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Rep. Laddie Shaw; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. James Kaufman; Johnson, Zachary H.; Sulte, Randy; brian.dean@anchorageak.gov; Ky Holland; JOHN RILEY; Ann Rappoport  
**Subject:** Anchorage Hillside Fire Prevention Mitigation CAPSIS - Requesting your support

Dear House Finance Committee -

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) is pleased to see inclusion of the "Anchorage - Hillside Fire Prevention Mitigation" proposal in this year's CAPSIS, as TSP Number 69210. We are writing to request your support of this project which will continue critically important work to identify critical routes, engage and inform residents, and work with road maintenance entities on wildfire preparation and mitigation.

Wildfire on the Anchorage Hillside is an issue of when, not if. We need to be prepared to ensure damages are minimized, and residents know where to go and can safely exit an area where there is a wildfire. The RCCC has consistently ranked a project involving Fire Prevention and Mitigation, as our #1 priority in 4 of the last 6 years, and our #2 priority in 2 of the last 6 years, in the Municipality's annual Capital Improvement Projects survey. This project arises from a volunteer community effort initiated by RCCC that has expanded beyond our area to include the larger Hillside area and other less developed, steep areas in Anchorage. It has involved and leveraged participation from the Anchorage Fire Department, Anchorage Muni Office of Emergency Management and Division of Forestry, Anchorage Police Department, and researchers with the University of Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research, among others.

Thank you for considering and, ideally, approving this needed work.  
Ann Rappoport, Co-chair

[Rabbit Creek Community Council](#)  
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Ste. 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

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**From:** Jennifer Carroll <JCarroll@ci.homer.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. DeLena Johnson  
**Cc:** House Finance; Robert Dumouchel; Christine Hess; Reggie Joule; Bryan Hawkins  
**Subject:** Letter from City of Homer re Federal continuation funding for Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation  
**Attachments:** Homer Harbor Expansion FY25 Fed Funds update \_House Finance Committee.pdf

Dear House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and members,

We are pleased to provide an update on the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation, which is seeking an additional \$288,523 in State match funds. Federal continuation funds for the General Investigation have been included in the FY25 Presidential Budget. Attached is a letter to you from the City Manager regarding this great news. Budget inclusion underscores the USACE's commitment to the project. Our modest shared match investment is timely and promises substantial dividends for the State in the long run, catalyzing economic growth and enhancing public welfare.

Sincerely,

Jenny Carroll

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Jenny Carroll  
Special Projects & Communications Coordinator  
Public Information Officer  
City of Homer  
907-435-3101



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**From:** Eva Pate [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** [Virus Error] DOT & PF

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good Afternoon,

There seems to be a misconception that DOT and PF can hire and retain qualified heavy equipment operators for various stations throughout Alaska on wages that are not even greater than McDonald's employees. Mini or most of your DOT and PF employees are so underpaid that their families qualify for full benefits, such as food stamps, etc. At what point is the State Of Alaska going to determine that they must, in fact, pay an equitable and fair wage heavy equipment operators throughout the state. If the State Of Alaska is unable to take care of the employees that have been there for many years or new employees that would like a career, taking care of our highways, and keeping the citizens safe as they travel, then somebody needs to get busy. This is a tourist based state. You cannot possibly tell me that we are unable to pay a fair wage to people who are working, not only to keep us safe, but putting their own lives on the line by traveling in the most unsafe conditions in order to provide safety to everyone else. How do you expect quality service when you are paying pennies? Our economy has suffered such an inflation, and that employees were already burdened with severe underpayment. These men and women should not have to work to the point of extreme exhaustion just to make ends meet. They also should not have to sleep in their cars in the middle of winter in Alaska just so they could be here to provide service to us and not with their own families. Anybody ever stop to wonder why people are losing faith in ALASKA government this would be a perfect example. I am sorry that I cannot stay and write more for you. I have to tend to all of the things that my spouse cannot, because he is not here to take care of us. He's too busy taking care of the roads and the citizens of the state. I suggest you get busy doing the same thing. Hard-working people are hard to come by nowadays. You may want to consider that before you dismiss the ones you have. If you want honest answers, grab some courage and ask me what you'd like. I am more than willing to explain exactly what needs to be addressed from the inside looking out. That may take some courage on your part but at least you'll know the facts as they truly are and not as anyone would like to present them who do not and will not address what needs to be addressed over and over again. One last little detail. What an incredible blow to all the men out in the trenches as they watched new hires at the ANC airport get huge raises while they were all left alone and without. Unbelievable!

Eva Pate  
Registered Voter  
Hope, Alaska  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Tara Swanson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 7:27 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Seward Community Health Center Expansion

Good morning,

My name is Tara Swanson and I am writing from Seward to speak in support of state funding to begin construction on the new Seward Community Health Center.

Seward Community Health Center is currently housed in a building shared with Providence. However, in the last decade that the health center has serviced the community, their patient load has almost tripled. An expanded site will allow the center to continue offering affordable, quality health services to our community members.

Having an affordable option for healthcare services located in our town is a critical piece of infrastructure that stabilizes the livability of the town and surrounding area. Families and long-term residents are vital to the function of a small town. Investing in local health infrastructure is key to our long-term individual and community health.

We appreciate the support of our representatives in seeking the state funding needed to ensure this project moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tara Swanson  
Teacher  
Seward, Alaska

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**From:** Patrice La Vigne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:34 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; House Finance; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. David Wilson  
**Cc:** mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org  
**Subject:** Support for Alaska Long Trail Funding in FY 2025 Budget

March 11, 2024

I am writing to seek your support for the 21 Alaska Long Trail projects submitted for CAPSIS for inclusion in the FY2025 state capitol budget to fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps along the length of the planned route of the Alaska Long Trail. State Legislature secured funding for 10 Alaska Long Trail projects in the FY 2023 and 2024 state capitol budgets, so we need to keep the momentum going.

I live in Denali Borough, the home of one of the proposed 21 projects. It would be a 7-mile separated path along the east side of the Parks Highway, and my borough assembly unanimously approved a resolution to support the budget request.

Such developments in my area are key for the physical and mental health of my community, as well as enhancing our local economy.

Nestled along Denali National Park & Preserve, Denali Borough has a population of about 1200 people stretched along 100 miles of the Parks Highway. This means we have several individual residential communities, and linking them would increase social interactions and connections between them. Not for nothing, but more outdoor recreation opportunities in general are never a bad investment, what with the growing obesity, mental health and other health concerns.

Furthermore, visitors are the primary source of revenue for Denali Borough. Our tourist taxes on alcohol, marijuana and lodging feed our local economy. Threading more pathways as part of the Alaska Long Trail will bolster the economic development of our area. We host more than 400,000 cruise passengers in the Denali area each year, but the demographic of independent travelers booking their own itinerary has been growing and warrants investment. More butts in the beds means more tax revenue. We need to keep investing in options for the travelers, and adding more pathways is one way to do that.

I ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects submitted into CAPSIS in the FY 2025 budget.

Thank you in advance,  
Patrice

Patrice La Vigne  
Freelance Writer and Adventurer

**Trail Memoir - *Between Each Step: A Married Couple's Thru Hike on New Zealand's Te Araroa***  
**Order Here**

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[Backpacker Magazine: Best Backpacking Foods of 2022](#)

[REI Co-Op Journal: Cross-Country Skiing Gear Guide](#)

[REI Co-Op Journal: Trail Mix Guide on Snowshoeing](#)

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**From:** Ross, Clare E. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2024 1:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Municipality of Anchorage \$4M capital request for low barrier shelter  
**Attachments:** Anchorage Housing and Homelssness Update\_Assembly Legislative Committee\_03.06.2024.pdf; Assembly Housing Action Plan\_12.19.2023.pdf

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing today with background information on the Municipality's capital request of \$4M for low barrier shelter operations in 2024.

I'm attaching a memo from Assembly Member Brawley, Chair of the Assembly's Legislative Committee that outlines the Municipality's work and future plans, as well as some resources from the Assembly and community partners.

#### Additional Resources

- Assembly's Housing Action Plan – attached
- [Summary of MOA's housing investments](#), 2020-2023
- [Dashboard of Anchorage homelessness data](#) (by Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness)
- [Progress report on The Next Step Pilot Project](#)
- [Progress report on the United Way of Anchorage's housing programs](#)

Member Brawley's memo contains contact information for the different programs, if you would like to follow up to get more details on any specific program.

On the MOA side, you can contact [Mia.Costello@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Mia.Costello@anchorageak.gov) or [Alexis.Johnson@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Alexis.Johnson@anchorageak.gov) for questions about the 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue Shelter and Anchorage's Emergency Cold Weather Sheltering plan.

Thank you,

Clare



**Clare Ross** (she)  
Legislative Services Director

**Municipality of Anchorage**  
Anchorage Assembly  
907-343-4125

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**Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu (Dena'ina).** *I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina (English).*

Translation by Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart and Joel Isaak

*Messages to and from this email address may be available to the public under Alaska Public Records Law.*

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**From:** Heather Paxson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 6:44 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Dan Saddler  
**Cc:** House Finance; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. David Wilson; mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org; will@chugachmtb.org  
**Subject:** Alaska Long Trail Letter of Support

Date: February 23, 2024

Dear Senator Merrick, Representative Allard, and Representative Saddler,

I seek your support for the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, submitted into CAPSIS for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2025 state capital budget to fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps along the length of the planned route.

These projects are part of the planned Seward-to-Fairbanks Alaska Long Trail. The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks, embracing the many ways (motorized and non-motorized) Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.

I'd like to thank the State Legislature for securing funding for 10 Alaska Long Trail projects in Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 state capital budgets, totaling \$5.6 Million. We hope that this legislative session you will support the new set of the Long Trail projects, including the four that didn't make it through the vetoes last year.

As a resident of Eagle River and an avid year-round cyclist and hiker, I'm primarily interested in trails in the Eagle River-Chugiak area. As such, with regard to the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, I'm specifically interested in projects #4 through #12 as listed below.

#### **Eagle River-Chugiak Area Projects of Interest**

4. [Glenn Highway to Far North Bicentennial Park](#)
5. [Wayfinding in Anchorage & Chugiak-Eagle River](#)
6. [Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion](#)
7. [Ship Creek Trail "Arctic to Indian"](#)
8. [Peters Creek Trailhead Parking Survey and Design](#)
9. [Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription](#)
10. [Ram Valley Access Trail and Trailhead Parking Lot](#)
11. [Lower Eagle River Trail Boardwalk Replacement](#)
12. [Lower Eagle River Trail - Gruening Middle School to Glenn Hwy](#)

#### **BENEFITS OF THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL**

With some of the world's most stunning wild places, Alaska is overdue in creating a world-class, long trail system of its own. Goals and outcomes of building the trail include:

**Economic Development:** Outdoor recreation infrastructure is essential infrastructure, building on Alaska's global competitive advantage, and supporting local jobs, business opportunities, and a stronger, more durable AK economy. Long trails are potent, proven attractions that will increase the time and money travelers spend in Alaska, growing jobs for residents, spawning business opportunities, and invigorating the economies of trail towns and communities along the route and statewide. If a typical year's out-of-state travelers had reasons to spend one more day in Alaska, the result would be an additional \$250M in annual spending in our state.

**Access to Public Lands:** “On/off-ramps” to the Alaska Long Trail will help Alaska residents access public lands for a variety of uses. Existing access opportunities are insufficient to satisfy the growing demand for outdoor recreation, whether it is motorized, non-motorized, hunting, trapping, etc.

**Reducing the Backlog of Maintenance:** Alaska State Parks has a large and growing backlog of maintenance. Funding for Alaska Long Trail projects has focused on improving existing trails first - reducing this backlog, followed by filling small gaps before taking on large construction projects.

**USE & USERS:** The goal is a network of routes accommodating a variety of uses, including some braids open to motorized use, and others for non-motorized hiking, biking, and skiing. Some segments may include the Alaska Railroad or, like in Nenana Canyon, with a local rafting guide company. The Long Trail will be an Alaska long trail; a braided, four-season trail system designed for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV’s, snow machines, for both day and multi-day use.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION IN ALASKA**

The Alaska Long Trail project is set against the backdrop of the robust Outdoor Recreation economy. *In 2022, the Outdoor Recreation industry in Alaska generated \$2.6 billion in economic output, supported more than 20,000 jobs and accounted for 4 percent of the state’s economy.*

- Growth in Alaska’s outdoor recreation economy between 2021 and 2022 was second fastest in the U.S. (after Hawaii) and outpaced the rate of growth of both the state and national economies.
- Total visits to some Alaska State Parks increased 50% from 2019 to 2022.
- Hiking is the fastest growing activity for both air and cruise visitors to Alaska.
- Visitors would spend an additional \$250 million in Alaska if they stayed for "One More Day".
- Three million visitors a year hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail - a huge potential market for Alaska.

I ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the Fiscal Year 2025 state capital budget. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,  
Heather Paxson

██████████  
Eagle River, AK  
██████████

cc: [Senate.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov)  
[House.Finance@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Finance@akleg.gov)  
[Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)  
[Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)  
[Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov)  
[Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)  
[mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org](mailto:mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org)  
[will@chugachmtb.org](mailto:will@chugachmtb.org)

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**From:** Shaun E Sexton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 6:11 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Dan Saddler  
**Cc:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Long Trail CAPSIS FY 2025  
**Attachments:** Birchwood Community Council Resolution 2024-02-01[6770].pdf; NTN's long trail routing through Chugiak-ER draft prelim 02 14 2024.pdf

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I write regarding the Alaska Long Trail CAPSIS FY 2025.

As an accomplished long distance hiker I favor and support the establishment of The Alaska Long Trail. Having completed the three components of the Triple Crown of US Long Distance Hiking (Appalachian Trail, Continental Divide Trail, and Pacific Crest Trail) as well as long walks in the UK, Australia and New Zealand I have a fairly good idea of the attributes of a "World Class Trail". I will be proud to welcome fellow members of the worldwide network of long distance hikers, trampers and trekkers to visit Alaska for the purpose of completing The Alaska Long Trail.

Funding currently proposed for two of the projects in the aforesaid CAPSIS would be better used otherwise. Those projects are identified in the CAPSIS FY 2025 as TPS Number 68009 and TPS Number 68011.

In the Chugiak vicinity 4 trailheads are identified in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources final Trails Plan. Two are identified as existing and two as proposed. The proposed Thunderbird Falls Trailhead has an established parking lot nearby. A trail linking that parking lot will access Bear Mountain Point and Mount Eklutna. Construction of that trail will provide an alternate access to those summits rather than the current access from the existing Peters Creek Valley Trailhead. This would reduce the need to continue to use the current access point. Accelerated improvement of the existing and underutilized Ptarmigan Valley Trail Parking Complex (two lots), along with an extension of the Ptarmigan Valley Trail to the Peters Creek Valley Trail, will also reduce the demand for parking at the Peters Creek Valley Trailhead. The sum of the reductions could result in less capital expenditure along with reduced operation and maintenance expense. Parking revenue may increase due to the close proximity of the Thunderbird Falls and Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead parking lots to major state thoroughfares. Cost reduction could be furthered by have a short side trail from the existing Ptarmigan Valley Trail to the lake that would be accessed via the proposed Canyon Drive Trailhead thusly eliminating that proposed residential neighborhood trailhead completely.

Extending the Ptarmigan Valley Trail to the Peters Creek Valley Trail will serve to open up more countryside to park visitors. In addition it will provide routing to encourage and enhance hikers to patronize local businesses in Chugiak and Eagle River. These advantages are detailed further in the attached Resolution of the Birchwood Community Council. A map showing the area of interest along with concepts of trail "braids" is also attached.

Sequencing improvements project in the following order may be a sound approach:

- Complete the Ptarmigan Valley Trail extension to the Peters Creek Valley Trail; improve the Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead Parking Complex to the point it is fully functional year round and suitable for fee collection; redirect motorized users of the Peters Creek Valley Trail to the Ptarmigan Valley Trail.
- Design and Construct the trail linking the Thunderbird Falls Parking Lot to Bear Mountain Point and Mountain Eklutana.
- Reestablish non-motorized access at the current Peters Creek Valley Trailhead in **direct** coordination with the landowners and with **direct** nearby residents.



- Complete the short side trail from the existing Ptarmigan Valley Trail to the lake that would have been accessed via the proposed Canyon Drive Trailhead.

In closing I wish to note a curiosity about the following verbiage at the end of the descriptions for the two projects identified above: *"This project has been through a public review at the local level and is a community priority."* In my discussions with landowners and homeowners near the Peters Creek Valley Trailhead as well as trappers, hunters, hikers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers using the trail this winter, nobody reported any knowledge of the projects or related plans. Perhaps there's a systemic defect in the public review process that needs correction. **Priceless Good Will be a result!**

Questions, comments, concerns? Please contact me at 907 854 0635 or by reply email.

Thanks so much for your time and attention.

Shaun E. Sexton  
Professional Engineer ( CE 7752 -RETIRED)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



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**From:** Emily Davies <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Dan Saddler  
**Cc:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org; House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Long Trail FY 2025 Budget

Feb 23, 2024

Dear Legislator:

I am writing in general support for funding the Alaska Long Trail projects in the FY 2025 state capital budget. The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks, embracing the many ways (motorized and non-motorized) Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.

However, I do NOT support two proposed projects: 8. Peters Creek Trailhead Parking Survey and Design and 9. Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposed trailhead parking lot is in a residential neighborhood (look what happened to the neighborhood when a small trailhead was built at South Fork Eagle River;
- 2) We already have another unmonitored parking situation in the neighborhood at the end of Thornton Drive: it's littered with needles and trash, as well as other "unmentionables;"
- 3) The existing trailhead and "traditional use" trail are on private property and the owner is not in favor of the parking lot;
- 4) There are significant safety issues involved:
  - a. The road from the highway to the trailhead is steep and substandard - it does not meet code for required grade;
  - b. During the 2018 earthquake the road failed in three places, and the steepest section of Chugach Park Drive was reduced to one lane for over a year; furthermore during the Bear Mountain fire in the 1990s Peters Creek Subdivision was evacuated.
  - c. This substandard road is the only access for emergency vehicles and the only entrance and exit off the mountain for most residents.
  - d. Stuck cars blocking the road are common during icy and snowy winter months.

Increased traffic is irresponsible and poses significant hazards to residents and visitors.

Instead, we propose moving motorized access to Peters Creek valley and the Long Trail to the existing underutilized the Ptarmigan Valley trailhead in Chugiak and building a spur trail from the Ptarmigan Valley trail to the Peter's Creek Trail (identified in comments to the 2009 Chugach State Parks Management Plan). Bikers, hikers and skiers might continue to use the Peters Creek trailhead with permission from the owners.

I propose the scope for items 8. and 9. of submitted budget by Alaska Trails be modified to read Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead Parking Survey and Design and 9. Ptarmigan Valley/Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription.

I am not alone in my concerns. I have a petition with over 25 signatures of local residents opposed to the Peters Creek Trailhead, and I am collecting more.

Thank you,

Emily Davies

[REDACTED]

Chugiak, AK 99567

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Howard Carbone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2024 10:18 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Alaska Long Trail funding

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support for funding Alaska Long Trail projects, especially the four in Denali State Park, through the CAPSIS 2024 process.

My family has owned a tourism business operating in Denali State Park for 20 years. We show off Alaska to thousands of guests a year on park trails. We employ local guides and last year we paid over \$13,000 in Denali State Park user fees. Tourism businesses like ours are the backbone of our area's economy.

For us, trails are the public infrastructure we depend on.

South Denali has tremendous tourism potential. However, we have seen it become more degraded every year to the point where many of the trails we used are now closed or so damaged that they are unusable. For example, the Byers Lake Loop should be a flagship attraction for Alaska, but it has only been open for four of the last 20 years. The trails we still use are becoming so degraded that they pose serious safety concerns. In tourism we have to reliably offer a safe, quality experience to our guests, but the condition of Denali State Park makes that extremely difficult. The popularity of trails in Denali State Park has exploded over the past decade, but our business growth is limited until existing trails are repaired and opened and we can show off an Alaska that we're proud of. Repairing and upgrading these trails will benefit the many Alaskans who hike, hunt, and guide these trails, but it will also spur renewed investment in an area with great potential for growth.

Investment in the Alaska Long Trail will have similar effects across the state and will diversify Alaska's tourism industry. Decades of tourism industry marketing have pushed Alaska as a cruise destination and have ignored the other kinds of travelers. Alaska stands to gain greatly from becoming an adventure travel destination, but it takes some investment to get there. The Alaska Long Trail is exactly the kind of high-profile attraction that will bring people here from all over the world. This will spur an economic boom as accommodations, restaurants, outfitters, and other services open to meet the demand. The Long Trail will be heavily used by Alaskans for recreating, hunting, and travel, but they will also use it as an economic engine to build an entirely new facet of our tourism industry.

Thank you, and please support the Alaska Long Trail projects, especially the four in Denali State Park.

Howard Carbone  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Shannon Sabroski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:42 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Dan Saddler  
**Cc:** Senate Finance Committee; House Finance; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. David Wilson; mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org; Will Taygan  
**Subject:** Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) Letter of Support

Date: February 22, 2024

Dear Senator Merrick, Representative Allard, and Representative Saddler,

I seek your support for the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, submitted into CAPSIS for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2025 state capital budget to fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps along the length of the planned route.

These projects are part of the planned Seward-to-Fairbanks Alaska Long Trail. The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks, embracing the many ways (motorized and non-motorized) Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.

I'd like to thank the State Legislature for securing funding for 10 Alaska Long Trail projects in Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 state capital budgets, totaling \$5.6 Million. We hope that this legislative session you will support the new set of the Long Trail projects, including the four that didn't make it through the vetoes last year.

As a resident of Eagle River and an avid year-round cyclist, I'm primarily interested in trails in the Eagle River-Chugiak area and making those trails open to biking on a year-round basis. As such, with regard to the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, I'm specifically interested in projects #4 through #12 as listed below.

#### **Eagle River-Chugiak Area Projects of Interest**

4. [Glenn Highway to Far North Bicentennial Park](#)
5. [Wayfinding in Anchorage & Chugiak-Eagle River](#)
6. [Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion](#)
7. [Ship Creek Trail "Arctic to Indian"](#)
8. [Peters Creek Trailhead Parking Survey and Design](#)
9. [Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription](#)
10. [Ram Valley Access Trail and Trailhead Parking Lot](#)
11. [Lower Eagle River Trail Boardwalk Replacement](#)
12. [Lower Eagle River Trail - Gruening Middle School to Glenn Hwy](#)

#### **BENEFITS OF THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL**

With some of the world's most stunning wild places, Alaska is overdue in creating a world-class, long trail system of its own. Goals and outcomes of building the trail include:

**Economic Development:** Outdoor recreation infrastructure is essential infrastructure, building on Alaska's global competitive advantage, and supporting local jobs, business opportunities, and a stronger, more durable AK economy. Long trails are potent, proven attractions that will increase the time and money travelers spend in Alaska, growing jobs for residents, spawning business opportunities, and invigorating the economies of trail towns and communities along the route and statewide. If a typical year's out-of-state travelers had reasons to spend one more day in Alaska, the result would be an additional \$250M in annual spending in our state.

**Access to Public Lands:** “On/off-ramps” to the Alaska Long Trail will help Alaska residents access public lands for a variety of uses. Existing access opportunities are insufficient to satisfy the growing demand for outdoor recreation, whether it is motorized, non-motorized, hunting, trapping, etc.

**Reducing the Backlog of Maintenance:** Alaska State Parks has a large and growing backlog of maintenance. Funding for Alaska Long Trail projects has focused on improving existing trails first - reducing this backlog, followed by filling small gaps before taking on large construction projects.

**USE & USERS:** The goal is a network of routes accommodating a variety of uses, including some braids open to motorized use, and others for non-motorized hiking, biking, and skiing. Some segments may include the Alaska Railroad or, like in Nenana Canyon, with a local rafting guide company. The Long Trail will be an Alaska long trail; a braided, four-season trail system designed for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV's, snow machines, for both day and multi-day use.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION IN ALASKA**

The Alaska Long Trail project is set against the backdrop of the robust Outdoor Recreation economy. *In 2022, the Outdoor Recreation industry in Alaska generated \$2.6 billion in economic output, supported more than 20,000 jobs and accounted for 4 percent of the state's economy.*

- Growth in Alaska's outdoor recreation economy between 2021 and 2022 was second fastest in the U.S. (after Hawaii) and outpaced the rate of growth of both the state and national economies.
- Total visits to some Alaska State Parks increased 50% from 2019 to 2022.
- Hiking is the fastest growing activity for both air and cruise visitors to Alaska.
- Visitors would spend an additional \$250 million in Alaska if they stayed for "One More Day".
- Three million visitors a year hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail - a huge potential market for Alaska.

I ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the Fiscal Year 2025 state capital budget. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

*Shannon Sabroski*

[REDACTED]  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Communications <Communications@ruralcap.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Support for Housing Alaska's Advocacy Efforts  
**Attachments:** HAPPP Resolution FINAL.pdf; HAPP Support Letter Final\_House.pdf

House of Representatives Finance Committee –

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) is requesting an appropriation of \$10M to HAPPP.

We humbly ask for your support to help Soldotna and other Alaska communities bring much-needed housing online to support the local workforce and economy.

Please find the attached Resolution and Letter of Support.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

External Affairs & Communications

**Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP)**

731 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue | Anchorage, AK 99501

907.279.2511 | [www.ruralcap.org](http://www.ruralcap.org)

[reCAP Employee Homepage](#)



*RurAL CAP's Central Office rests on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabascans and has services spread across the state. For thousands of years, Alaska Natives have been and continue to be the stewards of this land. It is with gratefulness and respect that we recognize their contributions, innovations, and perspectives.*

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**From:** Sarah Bean [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 2:57 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Fund the Alaska Long Trail

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects submitted into CAPSIS for inclusion in the FY2025 state capital budget. I am SO excited about this effort to make Alaska trails even more useful to an even wider demographic. In my 40 years of Alaskan residency, I have watched some incredible trails get built, but this project has the potential of pulling all of those efforts into one cohesive and exceptionally practical trail system, not to mention the legacy it will create for generations to come. I am thrilled by the idea of being able to cycle safely in my area between Mat-Su and Anchorage, and from Palmer over Hatcher Pass. There is something for everybody along the Alaska Long Trail! I am also very supportive of the inherent benefits to making it more feasible to get outside in our beautiful state: physical and mental health, jobs, tourism, just to name a few. We deserve a world class long trail to match our spectacular and unique corner of the world!

I look forward to using the trail!

Thank you,

Sarah Bean  
[REDACTED]  
Palmer AK 99645  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** D.A. Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 11:47 AM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Julie Coulombe; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz  
**Cc:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Housing Alaskans Support  
**Attachments:** Support Housing Alaskans .pdf

Good Afternoon Representatives,

I am writing today in support of Housing Alaskans. As a landlord, realtor, and investor I can attest to the current all time high cost of housing in Southcentral Alaska. We all know, the best way to bring those living costs down is by adding more housing inventory. Housing Alaskans is committed to working with investors to help bring more housing developments online so more Alaskans can have affordable housing.

Which I can also say, as an investor the most critical times of bringing a development online is the beginning and the ending. So to have an organization such as Housing Alaskans, to leverage private and public funds to get help get these projects moving and finished, would truly help us get more housing created for Alaskans.

With more housing for Alaskans, it helps bring back our workforce, which in turn benefits the economy. So by supporting Housing Alaskans, to then support these housing developments, the reach these funds could have is tremendous and wholly beneficial for Alaska.

More information about Housing Alaskans can be found on their website as well as their contact information if there's any questions <https://housingalaskans.com/contact>

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of support. If there are any questions for me please just let me know.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Adams  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kachemak City Clerk <cityclerk@kachemak.city>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; House Finance Legislation; Rep. Sarah Vance; Sen. Gary Stevens; Michele Turner  
**Subject:** City of Kachemak FY25 CAPSIS and Resolution 2023-41  
**Attachments:** 2025 CAPSIS Resolution 2023-41.pdf

Please see attached, we submitted this online through the portal and we wanted you to have a copy as well.  
If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.  
Have a great weekend!!

Laurie Wallace-  
Kachemak City Clerk  
Phone: (907)-235-8897  
Email address: cityclerk@kachemak.city  
Website: [www.kachemak.city](http://www.kachemak.city)

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**From:** Meghan Thibodeau <MThibodeau@kenai.city>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 4:51 PM  
**Subject:** City of Kenai Resolution No. 2024-04 - Base Student Allocation  
**Attachments:** image002.wmz; Resolution No. 2024-04.pdf

Please see attached Resolution No. 2024-04, passed by the Council of the City of Kenai on January 17, 2024:  
REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Per Section 2 of the attached legislation, a copy of this resolution is being provided to Governor Dunleavy and the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the President of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, the Education Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate, and the Finance Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate.

Thank you,



**Meghan Thibodeau**  
Deputy City Clerk

**City of Kenai** | 210 Fidalgo Avenue | Kenai, AK 99611  
**P:** (907) 283-8249 | **W:** [www.kenai.city](http://www.kenai.city) | **E:** [mthibodeau@kenai.city](mailto:mthibodeau@kenai.city)

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**From:** JJ Harrier <j.harrier@aarsrecovery.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2023 8:23 AM  
**To:** House Finance; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Residential Expansion Project - Now in CAPSIS

Good morning-

[Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Inc.](#) (AARS), located at Nugen's Ranch in the Mat-Su Valley, is looking to expand our treatment services from 25 treatment beds to 50 by FY26. As we work to achieve this goal, we are looking for your support through a statewide capital budget request, now in CAPSIS.

AARS has served nearly 3,300 Alaskans since its inception in 1982. We are a high-quality, extended stay treatment facility for adults with a proven record of helping people get back on their feet from addiction. With our recent addition of outpatient and transitional housing services, this goal is even more achievable.

While we have met with many of you regarding the benefits to this expansion, we would love to continue the discussion as we move through this legislative cycle.

Please review the CAPSIS request and let me know if you have any questions, or if we can setup a time to discuss further.

Thank you for your support for effective alcohol and drug treatment in Alaska.

JJ Harrier  
Director of Development, Marketing, and Communication  
[Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, Inc.](#)  
PO Box 871545  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
(907) 376-4534, fax (907) 376-2348

The information contained in this fax is CONFIDENTIAL and is intended only for the designated recipient. If you have received this transmission in error, you are hereby notified that review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is forbidden. This transmission may contain information from records protected by federal law and regulations governing Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (42 C.F.R. Part 2) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone and return the original e-mail to the address above. Failure to do so may result in a sizeable fine.

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**From:** Erin Keeling <ekeeling@alaskapac.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Urgent - HB189 & ACPA's CAPSIS Infrastructure Grant Request  
**Attachments:** ACPA Legislative Requests 2024 - HB189 and CAPSIS.pdf

I write from Anchorage's upper hillside asking that, in your realm of power and influence, you take all necessary steps to whole-heartedly support HB189 and the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts' CAPSIS Infrastructure Grant Request (complete details attached). The structural systems and its processes, original to its completion in 1988, have aged out and are in urgent need of upgrades – please help!

Being new to the world of theatre, these last 18 months of life and work at Anchorage's indoor city park known as the PAC have shown me its unifying power. I have witnessed audiences of all ages and demographics laugh, cry, and cheer together. And I have seen and heard, with every heart string tugged, a room of 2000 go completely still and quiet in-awe-filled-wonder. And I have watched, in our aged-out facility, patrons of all ages struggle to navigate our building in their power/wheelchairs, limping precariously up and down the stairs on crutches, or inching forward with walkers because our 35-year-old elevator was down again. PAC staff even had to tell Broadway Alaska's 'HAMILTON' Phillip tour, that after traveling clear across the country, part of their staging was stuck in our freight elevator, and we had no idea if/when we were going to get it out ~ Gulp, 'I'll tell them, no you tell them!'

The PAC has a rich history of magical and memorable moments; looking to preserve our landmark treasure and offer the same sweet magical moments to our diverse community for years to come, I ask for your help and support; please, say yes!

With hopeful regards,

Erin Keeling



Sponsored by: Douthit, Daniel

**CITY OF KENAI  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA MAKE A MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is constitutionally obligated to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to AS 29.35.160, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is required to form a borough school district and to establish, maintain, and operate a system of public schools on an areawide basis; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai is served by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and has three traditional schools in Kenai, one alternative high school, two charter schools, and one school within the Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility; and,

WHEREAS, without a Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase or one-time funding, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will face an approximately \$13 million budget deficit for FY25, which would likely require an increase in class size and elimination of programs important to our students and community members; and,

WHEREAS, the BSA has not kept up with the increased costs and the rates of cumulative inflation; and,

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually increased local contributions to keep pace with these rising costs and has reached the maximum allowable amount resulting in a need for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to decrease spending on essential programs; and,

WHEREAS, the BSA amount directly affects how much the Kenai Peninsula Borough is allowed to contribute; and,

WHEREAS, a meaningful increase to the BSA would help ensure adequate and equitable funding to maintain reasonable class sizes, provide basic student resource needs, and improve student outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly voted unanimously by resolution to support a BSA increase, and we hereby support their request for a BSA increase.

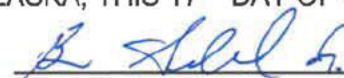
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA:

**Section 1.** That Kenai City Council supports the Kenai Peninsula Borough's request for the Alaska Legislature to increase the BSA.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy and the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation, the President of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, the Education Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate, and the Finance Committees of the Alaska House and Alaska Senate.

**Section 3.** That this Resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Gabriel Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



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Michelle M. Saner, MMC, City Clerk



# KENAI

City of Kenai | 210 Fidalgo Ave, Kenai, AK 99611-7794 | 907.283.7535 | [www.kenai.city](http://www.kenai.city)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members

**FROM:** Council Member Alex Douthit  
Council Member Phil Daniel

**DATE:** January 8, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2024-04 – Base Student Allocation

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This resolution requests the State of Alaska make a meaningful increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for public schools.

The BSA has not kept up with the increased costs and the rates of cumulative inflation, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough has continually increased local contributions to keep pace with these rising costs and has reached the maximum allowable amount. Without a meaningful increase to the BSA, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will need to decrease spending on essential programs and resources.

An increase to the BSA is important to maintain and improve public schools in Kenai, including three traditional schools, one alternative high school, two charter schools, and one school within the Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility and will help ensure adequate and equitable funding to maintain reasonable class sizes, provide basic student resource needs, and improve student outcomes.

Your consideration is appreciated.



CITY OF KACHEMAK  
KACHEMAK, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2023-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK, ALASKA NAMING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2025.

WHEREAS, The City Council discussed capital improvement projects and legislative priorities at a public council meeting on October 11th, 2023 and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the City Council to provide the Governor, the State Legislature, State agencies, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and other potential funding sources with adequate information regarding the City's capital project funding needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK:


Section 1. That the Kachemak City Council's legislative priorities for 2025 are as follows:

1. Community Center renovation including: replacing the carpeting and tiling flooring in the main hall, conference room and kitchen; new blinds, wired thermostats to allow for remote control of the heating zones.
2. Secure additional funding for emergency roadwork and repairing deteriorating roads.
3. Work with AML and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to determine feasibility of a sustainable city water system for the City of Kachemak.
4. Work with AML and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) Alaska Broadband Project, to determine feasibility of making fiber optic broadband internet available to the residents of the City of Kachemak.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Assembly Members, and all Kenai Peninsula Borough Legislators.

PASSED and APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City of Kachemak this 13th day of December, 2023.

CITY OF KACHEMAK



Connie Isenhour, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie Wallace, City Clerk

# Project Title: Kachemak - Kachemak Community Center Renovation

TPS Number: 68657

Priority: 1

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Kachemak

FY2025 State Funding Request: \$30,000

Future Funding May Be Requested

## Brief Project Description:

New Flooring, blinds, and thermostats in the Community Center

## Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$30,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$30,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Kachemak Community Center was built in 1980 and the conference room addition was added in 1983. We still have the original carpet and tile flooring in place. We have upgraded the bathrooms thanks to a donation of waterproof vinyl plank flooring, and would like to continue to renovate the rest of the lower level with the same flooring. The windows throughout the building were replaced in 2022 and new blinds are needed to fit the windows. With our landscaping project last year, several trees and bushes were removed and the building is much more open to the road and the sun. User groups have requested the blinds for the comfort of their participants. New thermostats would allow for easier temperature control. Various groups use the community center on a regular basis such as quilters, the bridge club, yoga classes and church groups along with community events and the city council.

## Project Timeline:

upon approval the work would commence and be completed by fall of 2024.

## Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Kachemak

## Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Connie Isenhour
Address:	59906 Bear Creek Dr Homer, AK 99603
Phone Number:	(907)235-8897
Email:	cityclerk@kachemak.city

This project has been through a public review process at the local level and it is a community priority.



February 7, 2024

Senator Cathy Giessel; [Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)  
Representative Laddie Shaw; [Representative.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov)  
State Finance Committee; [senate.finance@akleg.gov](mailto:senate.finance@akleg.gov)  
House Finance Committee; [house.finance@akleg.gov](mailto:house.finance@akleg.gov)

Dear Alaska State Legislators and Finance Committee members,

The Girdwood Trails Committee seeks your support for the [Alaska Long Trail](#) (AKLT) projects submitted for inclusion in the FY2025 state capital budget. These 24 projects, totaling \$23 million, are shovel-ready or planning-ready. They are designed to fill gaps along the length of the planned route. One of the projects involves the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood.

#### **ALASKA LONG TRAIL IN GIRDWOOD**

Girdwood has submitted a request for funding of the Girdwood Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail. This trail is both part of the Alaska Long Trail Iditarod National Historic Trail Network and provides connectivity to and from the larger trail systems and the town itself. Our project is to rebuild bridges, improve trail tread and drainage to bring this section of trail to the USFS Class 3 level. It will restore an historic section of trail that is, in some locations, very tricky for many trail users to navigate currently.

This local project has broad support of the USFS Glacier Ranger District, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, and from the community as expressed by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors and Girdwood Nordic Ski Club as well as from the Girdwood Trails Committee. We have authorization from the Heritage Land Bank, which is the land manager for these lands. The trail work is included in the Girdwood Trails Plan, which is awaiting adoption by the Anchorage Assembly and was included in the Girdwood Iditarod Trail Route Study, which was adopted by the Anchorage Assembly in 1995. In short, this is a well-studied, well-supported longstanding project for the community and visitors of Girdwood.

Girdwood has self-funded and fundraised for significant work on the Girdwood Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail, which was in similar disrepair when we began working on it in 2019. The lower section connects the old and new townsites and is now a well-used recreational and transportation corridor in the community. We are confident that restoration of the Middle section of trail will be similarly well utilized and appreciated.

## BENEFITS OF THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks. It is designed to be a braided, four-season trail system for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV's, snowmachines, for both day and multi-day use. Some segments may include the Alaska Railroad or, like in Nenana Canyon, with a local rafting guide company. Similar trails, such as the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail attract visitors from all over the world.

Goals and outcomes of building the trail include:

**Economic Development:** Long trails are proven attractions that will increase the time and money travelers spend in Alaska, growing jobs for residents, spawning business opportunities, and invigorating the economies of communities along the route and statewide. In 2022, the Outdoor Recreation industry in Alaska generated \$2.6 billion in economic output, supported more than 20,000 jobs and accounted for 4 percent of the state's economy.

- Growth in Alaska's outdoor recreation economy between 2021 and 2022 was second fastest in the U.S. (after Hawaii) and outpaced the rate of growth of both the state and national economies.
- Total visits to some Alaska State Parks increased 50% from 2019 to 2022.
- Hiking is the fastest growing activity for both air and cruise visitors to Alaska.
- Visitors would spend an additional \$250 million in Alaska if they stayed "One More Day".
- Three million visitors a year hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail - a huge potential market for Alaska.

**Access to Public Lands:** "On/off-ramps" to the Alaska Long Trail will help Alaska residents access public lands for a variety of uses. Existing access opportunities are insufficient to satisfy the growing demand in outdoor recreation, whether it is motorized and nonmotorized.

**Reducing the Backlog of Maintenance:** Alaska State Parks has a large and growing backlog of maintenance. Funding for Alaska Long Trail projects has focused on improving existing trails first - reducing this backlog.

We thank the State Legislature for securing funding for [10 Alaska Long Trail projects in FY2023 and FY2024 state capital budgets](#), totaling \$5.6 Million, including funding to assist with construction of a suspension bridge in Girdwood to reconnect the Winner Creek Trail.

**We ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2025 state capital budget.**

Please call or write if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Crews*

Barbara Crews, Chair  
Girdwood Trails Committee

Cc: Alaska Trails; [steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org](mailto:steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org)



16 February 2024

House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representatives,

We urge you to please support **Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership's** legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska.

**Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska.**

Housing Alaskans invested its first legislative appropriation into housing projects that helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

These housing projects had been stalled due to cost increases or lack of the final dollars needed in a multi-source capital stack. Housing Alaskans stepped in with "top-off" grants to reignite these projects that otherwise would not have been completed or launched in 2023.

**Housing Alaskans is worth investing in.** Dozens of similarly stymied housing projects applied for the limited funding in Housing Alaskans' first project solicitation. If the legislature appropriates \$10M in additional funds to Housing Alaskans, hundreds more homes could come online soon.

Housing Alaskans' unique leveraging of private and public funds is a proven driver to help housing developments cross the finish line. Housing Alaskans collaborates with other funders by leveraging public funds and philanthropic contributions, building upon the project reviews done by other funders, and reducing funding restrictions and paperwork to make it easier and faster for developers to get projects moving.

**Please vote yes to appropriate \$10M to Housing Alaskans.** Thank you very much for your consideration!

Respectfully,

Amanda Adams  
Co-Owner  
Borealis Properties, LLC.

# ***Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter***

*A Newsletter about Trails in Interior Alaska*

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Re: Alaska Long Trail projects for FY2025 state capital budget

Dear Representative Cronk,

Please support all 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, submitted into CAPSIS for the FY2025 state capital budget. These will fill shovel- and planning-ready gaps along the planned route.

While none of these projects is in the Interior, we will still benefit from them. The Alaska Long Trail, once complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting Seward and Fairbanks. It will include both motorized and non-motorized modes of travel. It will draw users from around the state, nation, and world. That Fairbanks is at one end of the trail is significant. People will start or end their treks here, which means business for our hotels, grocery stores, and outdoor recreation stores. But the trail will only become complete when all the gaps are filled.

Many sections of the multi-braided system already exist as trails or are currently planned. The multi-braided aspect is important, as it will allow a variety of different experiences and transportation modes. And the route is almost entirely on public lands, enormously reducing the complexity and cost.

The trail will benefit locals in other ways. Once complete, we will be able to connect Fairbanks and Nenana on a year-round trail system. In summer, people could travel between the towns using a variety of travel modes, including ATV, mountain bike, and foot. In winter, people could use the Alaska Long Trail by itself or use it in conjunction with the Tanana River to make a loop.

The State Legislature has already secured funding for 10 Alaska Long Trail projects in FY2023 and FY2024 state capital budgets, totaling \$5.6 Million. The project is well on its way. I hope you will support the new set of the Long Trail projects, totaling \$18.8 Million.

Outdoor recreation is a key industry in Alaska and has much more potential. Besides improving our economy, many projects, such as the Alaska Long Trail, help Alaskans to get outside and use our natural resources. This is good for our mental and physical health. It also helps strengthen our ties to the outdoors.

*Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter*

*2051 Pine Cone Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709*

*Phone: (907) 455-6641   Email: [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)*

Please support the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2025 state capital budget.

Sincerely,

Eric Troyer  
Editor and Publisher

cc:

Senate.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

House.Finance@akleg.gov

Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov

Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov

Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov

Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov

Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov





February 22, 2024

House Finance Committee  
Via email: [House.Finance@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Finance@akleg.gov)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

NeighborWorks Alaska urges your support for **Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership's** legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska.

NeighborWorks Alaska is dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and individuals by preserving homes, creating new housing opportunities, and strengthening neighborhoods. As a nonprofit housing provider, we encourage additional investment and support in housing across the state.

**Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska.** Housing Alaskans invested its first legislative appropriation into housing projects that helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

These housing projects had been stalled due to cost increases or lack of the final dollars needed in a multi-source capital stack. Housing Alaskans stepped in with "top-off" grants to reignite these projects that otherwise would not have been completed or launched in 2023.

**Housing Alaskans is worth investing in.** Dozens of similarly stymied housing projects applied for the limited funding in Housing Alaskans' first project solicitation. If the legislature appropriates \$10M in additional funds to Housing Alaskans, hundreds more homes could come online soon.

Housing Alaskans' unique leveraging of private and public funds is a proven driver to help housing developments cross the finish line. Housing Alaskans collaborates with other funders by leveraging public funds and philanthropic contributions, building upon the project reviews done by other funders, and reducing funding restrictions and paperwork to make it easier and faster for developers to get projects moving.

**Please vote yes to appropriate \$10M to Housing Alaskans.** Thank you very much for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim", is placed above the name of the sender.

**Jim MacKenzie**

Executive Director | NeighborWorks Alaska  
2515 A Street, Anchorage, AK 99501 | [www.nwalaska.org](http://www.nwalaska.org) | 907-677-8490





February 7, 2024

Dear House of Representatives Finance Committee,

We urge you to please support Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership's legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska.

Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska.

Housing Alaskans invested its first legislative appropriation into housing projects that helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

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Please vote yes to appropriate \$10M to Housing Alaskans. Thank you very much for your consideration!

Respectfully,

Tiel Smith  
RurAL CAP CEO  
[ceo@ruralcap.org](mailto:ceo@ruralcap.org)

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF \$10M LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATION TO HOUSING ALASKANS: A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS** Alaska's pervasive housing shortage stifles economic growth, impedes workforce attraction and retention, and hampers community well-being. The lack of housing is the #1 reason why businesses say they can't grow. Post-pandemic conditions such as skyrocketing construction costs, financing hurdles, and a scarce workforce exacerbate our already acute housing shortage. Housing production has shriveled since most development exceeds what Alaskans can afford.

**WHEREAS** it can take years for a housing project to navigate the processes to pull together a capital stack from multiple sources to complete a housing development. Housing Alaskans was formed as a housing accelerator to augment funding and find creative funding solutions to help housing developments cross the finish line.

**WHEREAS** Housing Alaskans collaborates with other housing funding entities, such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, HUD, and philanthropic funders, to leverage and combine various funding streams to make it easier for housing projects to get adequate capital quickly and efficiently. Housing Alaskans is unique to other housing funding entities because it blends public funds and philanthropic contributions, builds upon the project reviews done by other funders, and has fewer funding restrictions than public funding entities.

**WHEREAS** Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska. Housing Alaskans first grant cycle helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. Housing Alaskans stepped in with "top-off" grants to reignite these projects that otherwise would not have been completed or launched in 2023. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

**WHEREAS** dozens of similarly situated projects applied for the limited funding available in Housing Alaskans' first grant solicitation. If the legislature appropriates \$10M in additional funds to Housing Alaskans, hundreds more homes could come online soon.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) supports Housing Alaskans legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska and urges the Legislature to pass the appropriation.**

Dated: February 7, 2024

February 22, 2024

House Finance Committee  
120 4th Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear House Finance Committee,

We urge you to please support **Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership's** legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska.

**Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska.**

Housing Alaskans invested its first legislative appropriation into housing projects that helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

These housing projects had been stalled due to cost increases or lack of the final dollars needed in a multi-source capital stack. Housing Alaskans stepped in with "top-off" grants to reignite these projects that otherwise would not have been completed or launched in 2023.

**Housing Alaskans is worth investing in.** Dozens of similarly stymied housing projects applied for the limited funding in Housing Alaskans' first project solicitation. If the legislature appropriates \$10M in additional funds to Housing Alaskans, hundreds more homes could come online soon.

Housing Alaskans' unique leveraging of private and public funds is a proven driver to help housing developments cross the finish line. With the dramatic increase in costs to either purchase a home or rent, hundreds of additional families have become homeless over the past two years and we continue to see our working population leave the state. Thousands of additional housing units are needed to stabilize our population and keep Alaskans in Alaska, and equally important, ensure we can significantly reduce homelessness in all areas of our state.

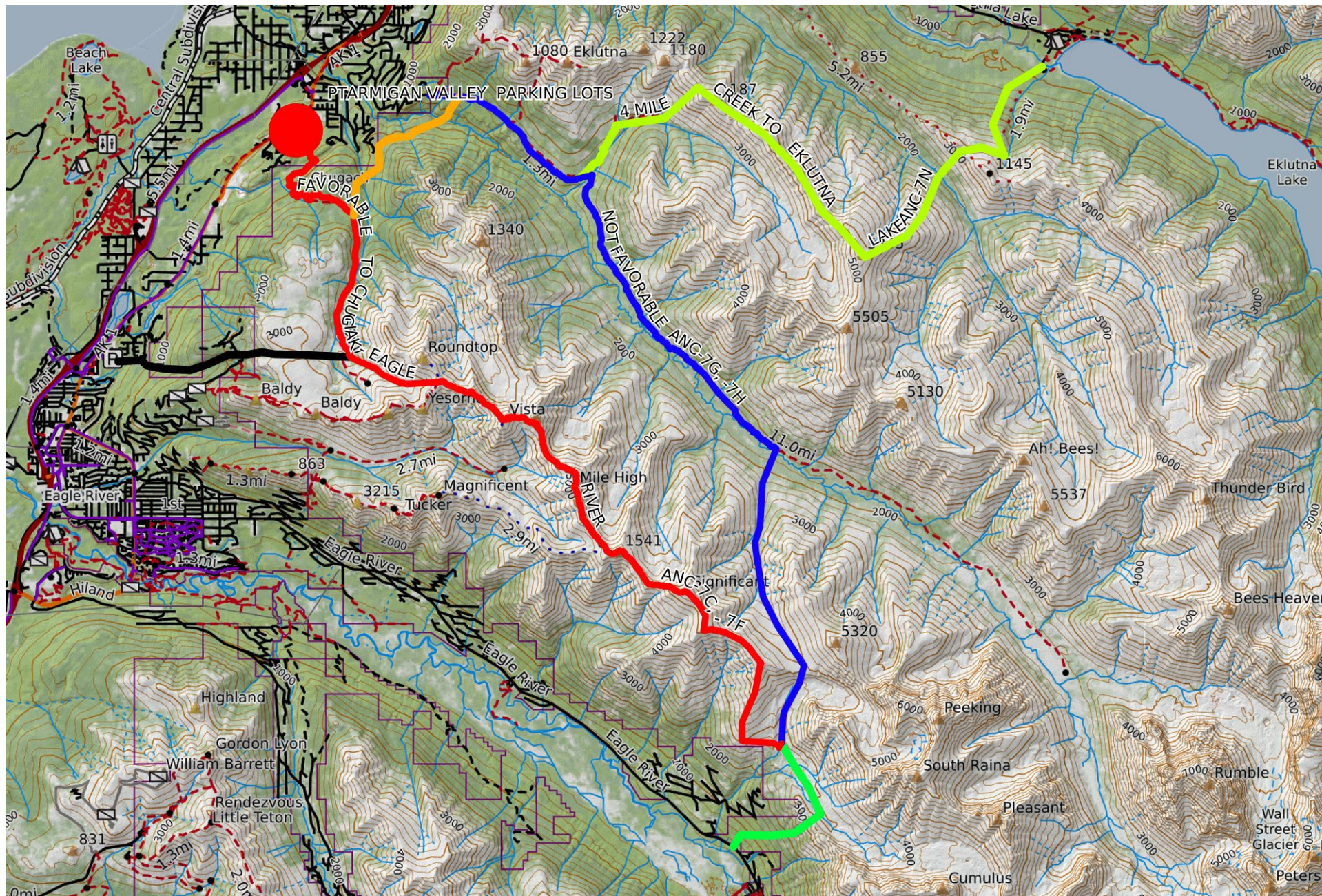
**Please vote yes to appropriate \$10M to housing your Alaskan neighbors.**

Respectfully,



Jenny Di Grappa  
Council Member, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness  
Director of Marketing and Communications, Food Bank of Alaska

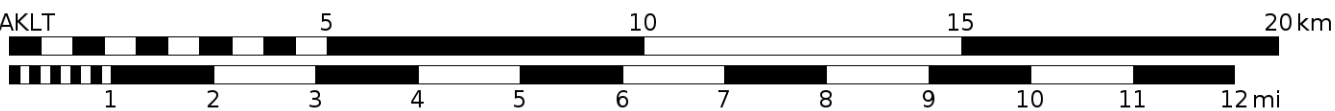




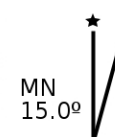
Chugiak - Eagle River AKLT

WGS84

UTM Zone 6V



Scale 1:119041 1 inch = 1.9 miles





## RESOLUTION #2024-02-01

### RESOLUTION OF THE BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ROUTING THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL (AKLT) SUCH THAT HIKERS MAY EASILY ACCESS AND PATRONIZE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER BUSINESSES

---

1   **WHEREAS** The currently proposed routing deters AKLT hikers from visiting Eagle River-Chugiak.

2   **WHEREAS** The currently proposed south to north routing between the Eagle River Nature  
3   Center and Eklutna Lake, connects a Ram Valley segment to the upper reaches of Peters Creek,  
4   descends a non-scenic section of that drainage on an existing trail to Four Mile Creek, and  
5   therefrom continues northerly to Eklutna Lake and beyond.

6   **WHEREAS** Without better access, AKLT Through and Section hikers will exclude visiting Eagle  
7   River-Chugiak while hike planning and will NOT visit those communities to re-supply, rest &  
8   relax, lodge, dine, bathe, wash laundry, complete shipping/receiving tasks, or otherwise  
9   patronize local businesses.

10   **WHEREAS** The vision statement on the AKLT webpage includes "...bolstering the Alaskan  
11   economy by attracting visitors from all over the world."

12   **WHEREAS** The communities of Eagle River-Chugiak have much to offer to AKLT hikers and  
13   deserve an opportunity to benefit economically from the trail.

14   **WHEREAS** An alternate primary routing will encourage AKLT Through and Section hikers to  
15   patronize businesses in Eagle River-Chugiak.

16   **WHEREAS** A yet to be designed and constructed extension of the Ptarmigan Valley Trail (PVT)  
17   will facilitate such an alternate primary routing. It will extend northeasterly over a bridged  
18   Peters Creek and intersect with the Peters Creek Valley Trail (PCVT).

19   **WHEREAS** The creation of PVT extension to the PCVT would not only promote commerce in  
20   Birchwood, Chugiak, Peters Creek, it would also open more area of Chugach State Park for year  
21   round recreationist including snow machine riders, hunters, trappers, XC-skiers, BC-skiers,  
22   bikers, hikers, berry pickers, equestrians and others.

23   **WHEREAS** Increased use of PVT parking complex would help to lessen traffic to existing and  
24   conceptualized future parking at the PCVT thereby reducing hazards on winding mountain  
25   roads. Accelerated parking fee collection at that complex would be another benefit. Ease of

access to that location from the Old and “New” Glenn Highways make it an attractive alternative.

The Birchwood Community Council Resolves: To request Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Trails, Representative Jamie Allard, Senator Kelly Merrick, Representative Dan Saddler, Assemblyman Dan Cross, and Assemblyman Scott Meyers to act separately and collectively to holistically assess the routing of the AKLT in the Eagle River-Chugiak vicinity and effectuate a final routing decision that best benefits the community economically, in a manner that least disrupts residential neighborhood living, and to fund a 2024 design completion.

Debbie Ossiander

Co-Chair Debbie Ossiander

Matt Cruickshank

Co-Chair Matt Cruickshank

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF \$10M LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATION TO HOUSING ALASKANS: A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS** Alaska's pervasive housing shortage stifles economic growth, impedes workforce attraction and retention, and hampers community well-being. The lack of housing is the #1 reason why businesses say they can't grow. Post-pandemic conditions such as skyrocketing construction costs, financing hurdles, and a scarce workforce exacerbate our already acute housing shortage. Housing production has shriveled since most development exceeds what Alaskans can afford.

**WHEREAS** it can take years for a housing project to navigate the processes to pull together a capital stack from multiple sources to complete a housing development. Housing Alaskans was formed as a housing accelerator to augment funding and find creative funding solutions to help housing developments cross the finish line.

**WHEREAS** Housing Alaskans collaborates with other housing funding entities, such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, HUD, and philanthropic funders, to leverage and combine various funding streams to make it easier for housing projects to get adequate capital quickly and efficiently. Housing Alaskans is unique to other housing funding entities because it blends public funds and philanthropic contributions, builds upon the project reviews done by other funders, and has fewer funding restrictions than public funding entities.

**WHEREAS** Housing Alaskans has proven its impact and is poised to expand its financial support to more housing projects throughout Alaska. Housing Alaskans first grant cycle helped bring 80-plus new homes online in Nome, Sitka, Soldotna, Juneau, Wasilla, and Nikolai. Housing Alaskans stepped in with "top-off" grants to reignite these projects that otherwise would not have been completed or launched in 2023. The new units are rented or leased to Alaska's workforce, low-income neighbors, those needing supportive housing, seniors, and domestic violence survivors.

**WHEREAS** dozens of similarly situated projects applied for the limited funding available in Housing Alaskans' first grant solicitation. If the legislature appropriates \$10M in additional funds to Housing Alaskans, hundreds more homes could come online soon.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Sitka Homeless Coalition supports Housing Alaskans legislative appropriation request for \$10M to be leveraged with private donations to accelerate housing development throughout Alaska and urges the Legislature to pass the appropriation.**

**Dated: February 15th, 2024**

**Name: Andrew Hinton      Position: Executive Director**

**Signature: *Andrew Hinton***



# ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY HOUSING ACTION PLAN

## THE ASSEMBLY'S HOUSING VISION

The Municipality of Anchorage has affordable, abundant, and diverse housing opportunities, so everyone who wants to live here can find a home that fits their needs and preferences.

### We Want More Housing!

Cottage houses	Duplexes, 3- and 4-plexes	Supportive housing	Housing for seniors	Starter homes	Condominiums
Affordable rentals	Multi-generational housing	Walkable neighborhoods	Innovative design	New ownership models	Apartments

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Attainable home ownership
- Housing quality, choice, stability and accessibility
- Quality rental options
- Community where everyone belongs
- Distinct neighborhoods
- Economic prosperity
- Engage the whole community in solutions
- Innovation & collaboration
- Government that works

## GOALS

1. Increase the supply of housing units for sale and for rent.
2. Diversify the housing market: housing types, sizes, price points, locations, accessibility, and ownership models.
3. Increase the share of resident-occupied housing throughout the year and reduce the number of vacant units.
4. Reduce housing cost burdens and ensure safe, affordable, high-quality permanent housing for all residents.
5. Make the Municipality a better partner in the development process.

## STRATEGIES

1. Remove Barriers to Infill and New Construction
2. Encourage Reuse and Redevelopment
3. Develop Funding Streams for Infrastructure and Public Utilities
4. Focus Incentives & Public Investment to Increase Housing Stock
5. Expand Housing Affordability, Accessibility and Stability
6. Streamline Municipal Processes



## ASSEMBLY TOOLBOX FOR IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

- **Policy** – code changes, resolutions, policy direction; remove barriers that the Municipality has control or influence over.
- **Investment** – incentivize desired end products; disincentivize other choices; direct investment (funding, budget decisions); indirect investment (tax exemptions, fee reductions or waivers).
- **Communication** – two-way feedback with the community about their needs and steps the Assembly can take to address those needs; education on existing issues and the Assembly's work to address the issues.
- **Advocacy** – build relationships across all levels of government, champion policies and needed investments in housing and community infrastructure
- **Convening and Collaboration** – bring together partners and stakeholders for problem-solving and action; engage the community in solutions; facilitate and negotiate multi-stakeholder agreements.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

*The Assembly will track the following indicators, and focus our efforts, investments, and policy decisions to help the community achieve the following targets.*

Indicator		3-5 Year Target	Data Source
1	Number of new housing units constructed: > Detached (single family) housing > Duplex, triplex and fourplex > Multi-unit (5+) buildings > Accessory Dwelling Units	Increase	Permit Center, Building permits; track by # units, Registration
2	Number of renovated housing units.	Increase	Permit Center, Building permits
3	Number of housing units created from conversion and reuse of existing properties.	Increase	Permit Center, Building permits
4	Number of subdivided residential lots.	Increase	Planning Dept., Platting Cases
5	Housing voucher waitlist, Anchorage	Decrease	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
6	Rental market vacancy rate	5%	Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Dev.
7	Median sale price of housing units by type. > Detached (single family) properties > Condominiums > Attached (multi-family) properties	Increase no more than CPI inflation	AK MLS <i>MLS tracks the 3 types. Multi = commercial</i>
8	Number of housing units for sale under median sale price.	Increase	AK MLS
9	Rate of average annual rent increase.	Increase no more than CPI inflation	AK Dept. of Labor, HUD
10	Proportion of resident-occupied housing units compared with all housing units.	Increase	Census, American Community Survey
11	Number of vacant and abandoned properties identified by MOA	Decrease	Code Enforcement (V&A database)

## ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY HOUSING ACTION PLAN – 12/19/23

12	Median days between submitting a permit application and receiving a permit.	Decrease	Permit Center, Performance Measures
13	Number of renters who are rent burdened	Decrease	AK Dept. of Labor, HUD
14	Number of evictions	Decrease	AK Court System
15	New investments in housing > Public funding / > Philanthropic funding	Increase	Muni, HUD, State, Philanthropy

### ACTIONS

#### A. STRATEGY: Remove Barriers to Infill and New Construction

1. Reduce costs and barriers to development of 3- and 4-plexes (AO 2023-103 and AO 2023-130).
2. Simplify residential zoning code to align with 2040 Land Use Plan (HOME Initiative, AO 2023-87(S)).
3. Encourage denser development (housing units per acre) by revising dimensional standards, minimum lot size and coverage, height limits, and other policies where appropriate.
4. Simplify and reduce prescriptive regulations in zoning code (Title 21) and building code (Title 23) for attached housing.
5. Encourage rezones to bring properties in line with 2040 Land Use Plan.
6. Create and expand use of pre-approved building plans for housing units.
7. Remove zoning and building code (Titles 21 and 23) barriers to manufactured and prefabricated housing.
8. Encourage workforce development in skilled building trades.
9. Identify publicly owned lands (HLB, MOA, Anchorage School District) that are suitable and make those lands available for residential development.

#### B. STRATEGY: Encourage Reuse and Redevelopment

1. Create a “code safe harbor” program and options to waive code compliance requirements for existing buildings, to reduce the effort and cost needed to rehabilitate and reuse aging buildings.
2. Encourage adaptive reuse by simplifying the change of use process for properties to become residential uses and subdivide properties into multiple units.
3. Focus investment on re-use of vacant and abandoned nuisance properties identified by the Municipality.
4. Explore code and policy changes needed to encourage more residential development in commercial zones.

**C. STRATEGY: Develop Funding Streams for Infrastructure and Public Utilities**

1. Increase utilization of Infrastructure Coordination Agreements (ICAs) by developers in partnership with AWWU.
2. Increase shared public-private responsibility for the cost of offsite improvements: water and sewer utility extensions, road and drainage upgrades, and public infrastructure required of new development.
3. Prioritize infrastructure expansion as part of developing new neighborhoods (e.g., Eklutna 770 and Powder Reserve).
4. Create an infrastructure bank, a revolving loan fund program established and administered by the municipality to provide low-cost loan financing for infrastructure for housing development.

**D. STRATEGY: Focus Incentives & Public Investment to Increase Housing Stock**

1. Continue investments in vacant and abandoned properties for housing (2023: \$1.3M matching funding to Anchorage Affordable Housing & Land Trust).
2. Evaluate existing incentive programs to identify areas for improvement, or alternatives for new programs, to increase program results, leverage existing infrastructure, and maximize public benefit.
3. Identify realistic qualification criteria and performance metrics to evaluate projects eligible for incentives (tax abatement, etc.), to ensure public resources are invested with reasonable expectation of public benefit.
4. Work with Planning staff to review recommendations from a planned targeted housing market study, including analysis of infrastructure costs and impact on development feasibility, accessibility and affordability.
5. Explore incentives for prevailing wage and apprenticeship utilization for projects that receive municipal tax incentives or direct capital investment.
6. Enact any code changes needed to support innovative housing models, such as community land trusts.
7. Increase local control of federal housing dollars; explore creation of an Anchorage Housing Authority.
8. Create an Anchorage weatherization assistance home upgrade program.

**E. STRATEGY: Expand Housing Affordability, Accessibility and Stability**

1. Identify impact of short-term rentals on housing availability and affordability, and potentially regulate (AO 2023-110).
2. Support local enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and develop reporting system to reduce housing discrimination.
3. Explore policies to protect and preserve current affordable housing stock, such as owner- and renter-occupied units in mobile home parks.
4. Collaborate with landlords, housing and service providers, legal aid programs,

and other stakeholders for education about fair housing, tenants' rights, emergency assistance and eviction prevention, and language access resources.

5. Explore policies to mitigate rapid increases in housing costs.
6. Support expansion of low-barrier, rapid response programs for emergency rental assistance and preventing eviction.
7. Remove barriers for people exiting the corrections system to secure permanent housing.
8. Increase number of supportive housing units operating in the Municipality, to help people live independently.
9. Encourage investments in residential energy efficiency and weatherization for rental properties and homeowners.
10. Work on recommendations to address Girdwood's unique housing challenges in the updated Girdwood Comprehensive Plan and future housing plans.

**F. STRATEGY: Streamline Municipal Processes**

1. Develop an implementation strategy for the Housing Strategic plan, with annual review of progress.
2. Create housing dashboard, track Muni investment in housing & how units performing.
3. Increase predictability throughout the entitlement and development process.
4. Implement findings and recommendations of the Bendon Adams report (2015) to improve performance, expedited timelines, and customer satisfaction with permitting.
5. Support a customer-focused redesign of the permitting and development review process to reduce time and confusion between submittal and approval of a permit application.
6. Support implementation of a streamlined online permit system, with robust data reporting.
7. Create a project advocate (staff) function to assist development customers in navigating the process, and interface across departments and with all entities in the permitting process.
8. Broaden community engagement and involvement in housing policy.

## APPENDIX

### **Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan: Housing-Related Goals** [plan link](#)

- **General Land Use:** A forward-looking approach to community growth and redevelopment.
- **Residential Uses:** A variety of housing types and densities in safe, attractive neighborhoods that offer a choice of urban, suburban, and rural lifestyles that are appropriate for northern conditions and in harmony with our natural setting.
- **Neighborhood Identity and Vitality:** A variety of safe, pleasant, and distinctive neighborhoods responsive to the diverse needs of residents, with good access to schools, recreation, natural areas, and community facilities.
- **Housing:** A balanced, diverse supply of affordable, quality housing, located in safe and livable neighborhoods with amenities and infrastructure, that reflects Anchorage's varied social, cultural, and physical environment.

### **Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2017): Housing-Related Goals** [plan link](#)

- **Goal 1: Plan for Growth and Livability:** Anchorage achieves residential and commercial growth, which improves community resiliency and citizens' quality of life as it supports their vision for the future expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Goal 2: Infill and Redevelopment:** Infill and redevelopment meet the housing and employment needs of residents and businesses in Anchorage.
- **Goal 3: Centers and Corridors:** Mixed-use, walkable commercial centers, and corridors thrive within their neighborhood context, offer housing affordable to a range of incomes, and enable business growth.
- **Goal 4: Neighborhood Housing:** Anchorage's neighborhoods provide a range of places to live, meeting the housing needs of residents at all income levels, household sizes, interests, ages, abilities, and all races and ethnicities.
- **Goal 5 Infrastructure-Land Use:** Coordinated and targeted infrastructure investments catalyze new growth, provide an acceptable return on investment, and equitably improve safety and quality of life.
- **Goal 6 Accessible Land Use:** Anchorage coordinates transportation and land use to provide safe, efficient, and affordable travel choices.
- **Goal 7 Compatible Land Use:** Infill development is compatible with the valued characteristics of surrounding properties and neighborhoods.

### **Foundational Plans, Reports, and Prior Work**

- Anchorage Housing Assessment (2012) [link](#)
- Anchorage Climate Action Plan (2019) [link](#)
- Assembly Summary Actions from Planning Session (Sep 2022) [link](#)
- Assembly Housing Action Resolution, AR 2022-416 (Dec 2022) [link](#)
- Planning Dept. Housing White Paper (May 2023) [link](#)
- Housing Retreat Summary Strategies (May 2023) [link](#)
- Assembly Guiding Principles for Housing, AR 2023-260(S) (Aug 2023) [link](#)
- Policy recommendations from subject matter experts, industry and trade groups.
- Sightline report on Accessory Dwelling Units [link](#)



# ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNA BRAWLEY, DISTRICT 3 | LEGISL. COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 7, 2024

**Re: Information on \$4M request for Anchorage Low Barrier Shelter and the Municipality's comprehensive plan to address homelessness**

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Kaufman and Representative Mears and Anchorage Delegation members:

Thank you for your service to the people of the Municipality of Anchorage and thank you to members and your staff who made time for us during our visit last month. This memo is a follow-up to questions on the **Municipality's priority capital funding request: Anchorage Low Barrier Shelter, \$4.0M** (CAPSIS # 69194), as well as background on how this specific project is a critical piece of our coordinated local response to homelessness and the affordable housing shortage.

## **LOW BARRIER SHELTERING: PROVIDE STABILITY AND A REALISTIC PATH FORWARD FOR THE HOMELESS**

Our funding request would **provide critical operational funding during the summer months for the emergency shelter located at 1111 West 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue** (in Midtown, District 13-G), in the repurposed administrative office building of Solid Waste Services. This shelter is currently being operated, with a capacity of 200 beds, as part of the Muni's Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) program, which has a total of 574 beds at this property and two non-congregate locations. The Muni's three ECWS facilities, as well as other shelters under private operation, continue to be at nightly capacity, with an additional estimated 200 to 300 people living unsheltered, from young adults to elders.

### **The Need: Reduce the Burden of a Statewide Issue on Anchorage Taxpayers**

Anchorage's homelessness issue is a direct result of many gaps in our safety nets, and lack of housing and services in communities throughout the state. **While our community is about 40% of Alaska's population, we have 60% of the people experiencing homelessness**—in our local shelters, in short-term support programs, and on our streets and in public places. This problem has gotten worse, with steep rent and housing cost increases, lack of treatment and counseling services, and for some people, no realistic way to return or remain in their home community. **Like many communities, Anchorage feels these impacts in our emergency service calls, police hours, and our hospitals' ERs.**

The Municipality, through various local sources and the last available federal relief funding, operates the 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue shelter during the winter months. The Municipality has committed to funding this shelter through May 31, 2024, with a step-down plan focused on moving current clients into housing placements or other arrangements before June 1—but the city does not have resources to sustain year-round operation of this critical facility, without making significant



# ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNA BRAWLEY, DISTRICT 3 | LEGISL. COMMITTEE CHAIR

cuts to other core services. **We request that the Legislature recognize this unfair burden on Anchorage residents, and support cost-sharing of emergency shelter.**

**The good news: we have a plan.** Our local investments in housing, and community efforts to strengthen services are helping people out of crisis and reducing pressure on shelter.

## THE BIG PICTURE: MOVING FROM CRISIS MANAGEMENT TO REAL SOLUTIONS

**We cannot solve our homelessness issue in silos.** While community organizations in Anchorage have provided housing, shelter, and other services to people experiencing homelessness for many years, it became clear in recent years that by operating in silos, and without a shared goal and path forward, we cannot move past managing this issue and toward reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness. At the same time, we have seen more people priced out of the housing market, more young people and vulnerable individuals left unprotected on the street, and a steeper climb out of crisis for people who are one emergency away from job loss, eviction, and service dependency.

**Partners across the Municipality have come together to improve our systems.** For the last few years, systems change and expansion of programs have focused on what works:

- **Preventing homelessness**, keeping people housed and avoiding eviction.
- **Rapid rehousing programs** to help families in crisis get back to independent housing.
- Programs to **help youth and young adults** exiting the foster care system, build life skills and job readiness, and protect vulnerable youth from harm, through safe housing.
- **Intensive supports** for people with medical and behavioral conditions, reducing use of emergency services and emergency room stays.
- **Better coordination and partnership** among programs with outreach, navigation, connecting people with services, and keeping people housed with case management.
- **Public-private partnerships** with providers, local and state agencies, and the community.

**Anchorage has made strides toward outcomes-focused, effective programs to help people improve their lives.** Since creation of the original Anchored Home Strategic Plan in 2018,<sup>1</sup> we have come a long way as a community:

- **Veteran homelessness is greatly reduced**, thanks to the extremely successful HUD-VASH program, pairing housing vouchers with full VA services, and other targeted programs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) is updating Anchored Home, a targeted strategic plan to end homelessness. Read the community draft plan here: <https://www.aceh.org/anchored-home>





# ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNA BRAWLEY, DISTRICT 3 | LEGISL. COMMITTEE CHAIR

- The HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project funds **housing and shelter for hundreds of youth** through multiple providers, keeping young people safe.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, federal relief funding through AHFC, United Way, and MOA **kept thousands of people from losing housing** (rental and mortgage assistance), quickly connected to affordable housing, and safely sheltered people in mass care.
- Complex Care Shelter in Midtown, the first of its kind, opened in 2022 to serve **people with medical conditions and disabilities**, providing a safe place to address care needs.
- United Way **connects people with permanent housing** through the Landlord Housing Partnership and Home for Good, a program targeting people with frequent corrections stays. So far, they've **housed 87 people, significantly reducing arrests and EMS calls**.
- In December, MOA and ACEH launched the **Next Step Pilot Project**, based on the model of Houston, TX. **Goal: house 150 homeless people in 6 months**. As of February: **65 housed**.

## HOUSING IS THE REAL KEY TO SOLVING HOMELESSNESS

Anchorage, like all of Alaska, doesn't have just one housing problem; many inter-related factors have created a complex situation of many problems to solve. In addition to focusing on homelessness response and prevention, the Assembly has made housing development one of its top priorities for the past several years and in 2023, created the **Anchorage Housing Action Plan** to have a strategic, organized approach to this complex issue.

The Assembly, in coordination with the Municipal Building Services team, Anchorage Community Development Authority, housing advocates, utilities, residents and developers, will use the plan to develop a range of solutions, from streamlining regulatory processes and cutting red tape, to developing new financing and incentives, and continuing the focus on expanding accessible and stable housing.

While the plan seeks to spur housing development at a variety of price points and types, **Anchorage's most urgent need is small, affordable rental units** (studio and 1 bedroom). Lack of affordable units is our biggest roadblock to helping more people out of shelter and off the street. And today in our city, more people live in unsafe or crowded housing because they don't have choice. We know the market needs to address a lot of our housing needs—and currently, it's not easy to build the housing types that our city needs to meet our demand for our workforce, families, and young people. To meet the need to develop more small, affordable rental units and spur private development of more diverse housing types, the **Anchorage Housing Action Plan 2024 priorities include:**

- Continuing conversions of aging, **underperforming hotels for low-income housing**
- Completing the **Providence Supportive Housing** project (under construction, received MOA funding)





# ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ANNA BRAWLEY, DISTRICT 3 | LEGISL. COMMITTEE CHAIR

- **Revisiting incentives** like tax credits, braiding funding sources, and infrastructure investment
- **Reusing and rehabilitating existing housing** stock (ACDA and AWWU currently seeking Federal funding to launch a rehabilitation program)
- **Zoning reform, removing regulatory barriers**, and reducing the cost of development with strategies to share the costs of public infrastructure

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Municipality and its partners are working collaboratively at all levels of the housing spectrum, but the problems are too big for local communities to solve on their own. Statewide solutions are needed. **The Municipality seeks a \$4M capital request for low barrier shelter operations in 2024 and \$10M for the Housing Alaskans: A Public Private Partnership (HAPP)** to help communities across the state, including in Anchorage, solve the housing crisis.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

The Assembly is a resource for your questions – and we encourage connecting with organizations doing great work, who can share programs serving our constituents:

### Municipality of Anchorage

Mia Costello, Legislative Liaison, Office of Mayor Bronson, [mia.costello@anchorageak.gov](mailto:mia.costello@anchorageak.gov)  
Alexis Johnson, Housing & Homelessness Coordinator, Health Dept.,  
[alexis.johnson@anchorageak.gov](mailto:alexis.johnson@anchorageak.gov)

### Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Stacy Barnes, Government Relations and Public Affairs Director, [sbarnes@ahfc.us](mailto:sbarnes@ahfc.us)

### Catholic Social Services

Robin Dempsey, Executive Director,  
[rdempsey@cssalaska.org](mailto:rdempsey@cssalaska.org)

### Covenant House of Alaska

Alison Kear, Executive Director,  
[akear@covenanthouseak.org](mailto:akear@covenanthouseak.org)

### Anc. Affordable Housing Land Trust (AAHLT)

Jason Bockenstedt, Executive Director,  
[jason.bockenstedt@aahlt.org](mailto:jason.bockenstedt@aahlt.org)

### Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Meg Zaletel, Executive Director,  
[mzaletel@aceh.org](mailto:mzaletel@aceh.org)  
Jessica Parks, Chief Operating Officer,  
[jparks@aceh.org](mailto:jparks@aceh.org)

### United Way of Anchorage

Sam Longacre, Housing Director, [slongacre@ak.org](mailto:slongacre@ak.org)



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

March 14, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Monday was a good day! We are very happy to report that Federal continuation match funds for the Homer Harbor Navigational Improvements General Investigation are included in the President's FY25 Federal Budget. While the budget still has to make its way through the House and Senate before being finalized, inclusion underscores the USACE's commitment to the project.

A strong local, state and federal partnership was instrumental to secure funding to initiate this new start General Investigation. USACE new start investigations are few and far between nationwide; it is exciting for Alaska to have the opportunity to work toward sustainable solutions to meet the escalating demands of maritime transportation in Southcentral and Western Alaska. The project will strengthen Alaska's transportation network and economic vitality, mitigate navigational hazards and support national security missions.

We are grateful for the State's partnership in the initiative and your continued support of the project. While we appreciate the challenges we all face with the State's FY25 capital budget, we respectfully ask you to support an allocation of \$288,523 to fulfill match requirements. These funds are necessary to keep the study on pace. The USACE plans to complete environmental fieldwork this summer; City and State match funds will be used to collect geotechnical data. Completing these tasks readies the study for design and feasibility analysis once FY25 Federal continuation funds become available.

Our modest, shared investment in the General Investigation is timely and promises substantial dividends for the State in the long run, catalyzing economic growth and enhancing public welfare. Continued State investment is supported by the Kenai Peninsula and Aleutian East Boroughs, the City of Seldovia, the North Pacific Fisheries Association and businesses in the marine industrial transportation sector. It also tops the joint capital budget priority list compiled by our District's legislators.

Sincerely,

Rob Dumouchel

03/20/2024

Testimony on the FY 2025 Capital Budget – SB41 and HB 40

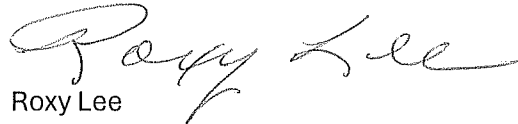
To the Senate and House Finance Committees

My Name is Roxy Lee. I have lived in Petersburg, Alaska since before statehood. This community needs a new hospital building and I urge you to include funding for the Petersburg Medical Center project in the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget.

The current facility is long outdated. It has multiple problems from plumbing to electricity to space requirements and handicap access.

We need an up-to-date facility to keep and attract staff and properly serve our community. I ask you to include the Petersburg Medical Center request for \$37 million dollars in the Capital Budget.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxy Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Roxy Lee".

Roxy Lee

PO Box 747

Petersburg, AK

Email: [roxylee@gci.net](mailto:roxylee@gci.net)

## CAPIS Infrastructure Grant Request

**Project Title:** Alaska Center for the Performing Arts Fire Suppression/Detection System and Lifts & Freight/Passenger Elevators Life/Safety Replacement and Upgrades

### History of Use and Project Justification:

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (aka PAC) has been an entertainment landmark and icon for over 35 years located in Downtown Anchorage at G Street & 6th Avenue. This facility, owned by the Municipality of Anchorage, has been managed and maintained by the not-for-profit Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (ACPA) since 1988. ACPA secured a partnership with national industry leader, The Nederlander Organization, in 2022 to bring a series of major Broadway shows to Anchorage each year with an initial 5-year commitment known as Broadway Alaska (BAK). ACPA is thrilled to be leading in this effort with BAK and its many partners by developing a new approach to regularly move these shows by air. The PAC is home to 8 Resident Companies in addition to the Broadway programs, and multiple other user groups that bring over 300 event dates and over 200,000 visitors per year to this facility. The new Broadway Alaska program is expected to significantly grow audiences and will revitalize Downtown. In its first year, we expect an economic impact of approximately \$30-\$35M (on top of impact from other programming by Resident Companies and other clients).

As a Cultural Pillar, ACPA needs to ensure the infrastructure and immediate safety needs required are met in order to serve all users of and visitors to the facility.



### 23/24 Broadway Season Stats:

**HAMILTON:** August 10 - Sep 10, 2023  
**COME FROM AWAY:** November 29 - Dec 10, 2023  
**SIX:** February 14 - 25, 2024  
**DISNEY'S ALADDIN (coming):** April 10-21, 2024

**Anticipated Broadway Alaska attendance:** 100,000

**Local and National Reach:** The series is seeing an average attendance from 75 cities across Alaska and 40 states, growing Arts & Culture Tourism for Alaska.

**Economic Impact:** Estimated at \$30-\$35M for 23/24

Disney's *ALADDIN* is expected to see over 25,000 attendees and on its own drive \$8-\$10M in economic impact.

The new Broadway Alaska program is bringing new attention and support to the PAC with private philanthropy through corporate sponsorships.

**OVERALL PAC ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE FOR 2023-2024: 225,000-250,000**

### **BROADWAY ALASKA SEASON SPONSORS**

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The current fire suppression and detection system as well as the passenger and freight elevators (original to the 35-year-old building) are all out of compliance with life/safety standards and are due for replacement.

**FIRE SUPPRESSION/DETECTION:** The faulty fire alarm panels set off multiple fire and trouble alarms without reason at all hours causing false department call outs. Repairs have been continually made to the battery modules, fire panels, smoke evacuation panels, and other components of the entire fire suppression system. The continual band-aiding of this system is no longer feasible.

The existing fire curtains (including the rigging and smoke pockets) in the Atwood Concert Hall, Sydney Laurence, and Discovery Theatres, are not code compliant. These curtains automatically drop from the ceiling when a fire is detected on stage. Fire curtains are what protects the audience from a stage fire engulfing the seating area. These must be brought up to current standards to ensure safety.

Replacing the fire suppression and elevator systems at the same time will ensure compatibility of the upgrades and that the increased demand on the systems can be safely supported for years to come.

**ELEVATORS/LIFTS:** The passenger and freight elevators are also original to the building. These are at the end of their useful life and require constant repairs. Given the high use of this equipment for major events and shows held at the PAC, breakdowns cause significant delays resulting in financial penalties for ACPA and its clients, constant concern for crews setting up equipment for events that can trap personnel in the freight elevator, and creates frustration/safety issues for patrons attending events due to growing issues with elevators in the public spaces.

**Responsible Entity:** Municipality of Anchorage and Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

**MOA Contact:** Renee Stewart  
Principal Admin Officer | Office of the Municipal Mgr  
907.343.4481 | [renee.stewart@anchorageak.gov](mailto:renee.stewart@anchorageak.gov)

## **FS90 Fire Suppression/Detection System**

**Replacement & Upgrade:** \$2,236,000

Replace/upgrade the faulty fire panel, smoke evacuation panels, and suppression/detection system components. Add devices needed to ensure compliance with ADA standards as well as municipal codes. Replace/upgrade original fire curtains to include the rigging and smoke pockets. Includes all costs for planning & project management, engineering design, administration, procurement, and installation.

## **Lifts & Freight/Passenger Elevators**

**Replacement & Upgrades:** \$1,664,000

Replace/Upgrade 3 passenger and 1 freight elevator, and 2 lifts original to the building. All are under constant repair, breakdown, and present safety issues to patrons, crews, and staff. The original fire suppression system and freight elevator should be upgraded simultaneously in order to allow for compatibility between the two systems. Includes all costs for planning & project management, engineering design, administration, procurement, and installation.

**FUNDS SECURED MOA:** \$1,810,000

**TOTAL CAPSIS REQUEST:** \$2,090,000

**TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$3,900,000

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** 2023-2026

*(to allow for planning & project management, administration, engineering design, procurement, and installation)*



## Alaska Center for the Performing Arts supports the passing of HB189.

### ABOUT US:

#### Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (aka PAC) has been an entertainment landmark and icon for over 35 years located in Downtown Anchorage at G Street & 6th Avenue. This facility, owned by the Municipality of Anchorage, has been managed and maintained by the not-for-profit Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (ACPA) since 1988. ACPA secured a partnership with national industry leader, The Nederlander Organization, in 2022 to bring a series of major Broadway shows to Anchorage each year with an initial 5-year commitment known as Broadway Alaska (BAK). ACPA is thrilled to be leading in this effort with BAK and its many partners by developing a new approach to regularly move these shows by air. The PAC is home to 8 Resident Companies in addition to the Broadway programs, and multiple other user groups that bring over 300 event dates and over 200,000 visitors per year to this facility. The new Broadway Alaska program is expected to significantly grow audiences and will revitalize Downtown. In its first year, we expect an economic impact of approximately \$30-\$35M (on top of impact from other programming by Resident Companies and other clients).



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FOR 2023-2024: 225,000-250,000**



#### BROADWAY ALASKA SEASON SPONSORS

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## HB189 is Good for Business

HB189 allows ACPA to expand business operations and revenue for the PAC while enhancing the theatre experience for patrons, increasing safety, and aligning with national standards.

## Current Challenges

Patrons may only consume alcohol in upper-level lobbies within limited timeframes, and there is no alcohol allowed in theatres under the current theatre license. For example, if a patron purchases an alcoholic drink during a 15 minute intermission, they must procure, consume, and return to their seats within minutes. This system is rushed, unnecessary, and leads to a harried atmosphere with product waste.

## A New Framework

HB189 provides flexibility and a framework to improve our business operations. The licensing updates allow us to effectively respond to longstanding requests from presenters, promoters, and patrons to evolve the patron experience at the PAC. The changes proposed in HB189 also aligns with industry standards.

ACPA fully supports this licensing change to better serve our clients, patrons, and ensures their experience at the theatre is relaxed and responsible.

ACPA has an existing and robust operations plan for all events at the PAC with a well-trained event staff, contracted security, and contracted concessionaire. Our operations can scale and adjust as needed to ensure our continued and successful operations with the passing of HB189.

## HB189 is Good for the PAC and Good for Business

- Expands eligible workforce
- Improves ACPA's ability to meet needs of events and clients
- Improves quality of patron experience
- Promotes safer consumption
- Eliminates product waste
- Increases operating revenue for PAC
- Increases economic impact on downtown
- Aligns theatre license with national standards

***HB189 is a win for local businesses, the Arts in Alaska, and the lively Downtown experience we all help to curate in Anchorage.***

*ACPA is the nonprofit that manages, maintains and operates the PAC.*

*The PAC is a multi-venue facility in Downtown Anchorage, owned by the Municipality of Anchorage.*





Homer Electric  
Association, Inc.



Passage of the federal *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* in November of 2021 with the full support of Alaska's DC delegation created a generational opportunity to modernize Alaska's infrastructure. Alaska's Railbelt Utilities – Golden Valley Electric, Matanuska Electric, Chugach Electric, Homer Electric, and the City of Seward – responded with the *Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program* for needed Railbelt transmission upgrades.

Each Railbelt Utility has a legal responsibility to provide electrical service in its certificated geographic area. What they don't individually have is the ability to develop and holistically consider the *interregional* infrastructure that enables the transmission of electricity between regions at economies of scale beneficial to the overall system. Historically, the state has stepped in to develop interregional capacity with projects that transcend service areas, such as the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project and Northern Intertie, where state leadership enabled critical infrastructure that no individual utility's ratepayers were able to support.

Together with the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), the Railbelt Utilities developed the *Railbelt Innovative Resiliency Project* to improve interregional transfer capacity of the Railbelt to both de-constrain existing resources and support innovative energy projects Alaskans will need in the future.

1. Phase 1: the southern portion includes a subsea high-voltage-direct-current (HVDC) transmission line from Soldotna to Beluga and associated infrastructure.
2. Phase 2: the northern portion includes the development of an HVDC line from Beluga to Healy and associated infrastructure.

Working with the Railbelt utilities, AEA applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and received the 5<sup>th</sup> largest award in the country - \$206.5 million in federal funds conditioned upon a 50% non-federal match. AEA will own the interregional infrastructure associated with the GRIP program.

The Governor has submitted a budget amendment that would fully fund AEA to complete near-term work required to keep Phase 1 advancing. Enacting that amendment this year is mission critical.

Additional funding would inform DOE that the state of Alaska is fully committed to the *Railbelt Innovative Resiliency Project* and would reinforce our delegation's advocacy for Phase 2. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 are required to achieve a truly modernized interregional system and one phase will be of limited use without the other.

A more resilient transmission system does not itself support one type of energy or another, but provides the ability to diversify energy resources, and when fully built enables prioritization of the lowest cost, most efficient energy to offset cost pressures that drive up rates. Once Phase 1 is complete, the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project will be able to increase deliverability because the upgrade will allow full utilization of that low-cost, renewable resource. State support for the interregional capacity that benefits everyone, but is beyond the capacity of any individual utility, is critically important to the future of the Railbelt and the foundation of our economy.

While significant, the non-federal match of \$206.5 million for GRIP Phase 1 should be viewed in the context of current investments Railbelt Utilities are making. Since 2018 almost \$650 million has been invested or authorized by ratepayers with no state or federal matching funds. State support for AEA to leverage one-time federal funding opportunities to build out the interregional components of the electric grid for the next generation is an opportunity not to be missed.

Arthur Miller, CEO	John Burns, CEO	Brad Janorschke, GM	Tony Izzo, CEO	Brian Hickey, GM
Chugach Electric Assn	Golden Valley Electric Assn	Homer Electric Assn	Matanuska Electric Assn	Seward Electric Sys





# Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

☎ 907.729.7510 📠 907.729.7506 • 4000 Ambassador Drive (ANHB Office) • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • [www.anhb.org](http://www.anhb.org)

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF  
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA  
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA  
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN  
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN  
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD  
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE  
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK  
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND  
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL  
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM  
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Bryce  
Edgmon  
House Finance  
Committee, Co-Chair  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal  
Foster  
House Finance  
Committee, Co-Chair  
State Capitol, Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable DeLena  
Johnson  
House Finance  
Committee, Co-Chair  
State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: ANTHC Short-term Skilled Nursing Facility Capital Funding Request

Dear House Finance Co-Chairs,

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)<sup>1</sup> writes to support the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's capital funding request to support the construction of a statewide short-term skilled nursing facility (SNF) located on the Alaska Native Health Campus. Alaska's sparse population and challenging environment provide significant headwinds to building, staffing, and operating SNFs. In fact, Alaska has the fewest per capita SNF beds of any state and would need to double the current number to tie for second-to-last in the country. Within the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), there are only 83 certified SNF beds, with an average occupancy of well over 90 percent, serving a population of over 170,000 Alaska Native people.

The current shortage of SNF capacity in Alaska has dire downstream consequences for the ATHS and hospitals in Alaska struggling to place patients in an appropriate level of care at a step-down facility. At the Alaska Native Medical Center, the statewide referral hospital for ATHS, between 20-35 beds are occupied by patients unable to transition to skilled nursing, representing approximately 10-20 percent of the hospital's patient population.

Capital funding awarded to ANTHC will help construct an 80-bed facility on the ANMC campus in close proximity to patient housing and clinical services. This facility will help patients who no longer need care in a hospital setting but still require additional, less intensive care to recover before returning to their home or community. With your support for capital funding, ANTHC can begin to expand access to this kind of care for Alaska residents and free up beds in more acute hospital settings for those in need of critical care.

---

<sup>1</sup> Established in 1968, ANHB's mission is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues for the Alaska Tribal Health System, which is comprised of Tribes/Tribal Health Organizations that serve all 229 Tribes and over 188,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people throughout Alaska. As the statewide advocacy organization, ANHB supports achieving effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this important request. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Alaska Native by phone at (907) 729-7510 or by e-mail at [anhb@anhb.org](mailto:anhb@anhb.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W F Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "W" and last name "Smith" being the most prominent parts.

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman  
Alaska Native Health Board  
Tribally-Elected Leader of the Valdez Native Tribe