

Anton K. Johansen
1887 Arctic Loon Circle
Fairbanks, AK 99709
March 8, 2011

Representative Peggy Wilson
State Capitol, Room 408
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Reference: House Bill No. 30

Dear Representative Wilson:

As a life long Alaskan whose exposure to Alaska's transportation system began as I accompanied my father on visits to Alaska Road Commission maintenance camps in the 1950's, I am a strong supporter of Alaska's transportation system. Today I am writing to you in support of House Bill No. 30 and with a few recommended changes that I believe will strengthen the bill and enhance its chances for passage.

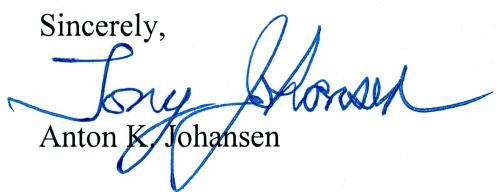
To date Alaska has depended almost entirely on the generosity of the Federal government for its transportation infrastructure. The current Federal deficit and Alaska's surpluses demand that Alaskans begin to assume a larger role in paying for their transportation system. House Bill No. 30 provides a funding mechanism that allows us to assume our responsibilities; however, I believe that a constitutionally dedicated funding source will be difficult to establish. I suggest that you consider revising your bill to provide for the statutory designation of the funds. This reliable funding stream will enable the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) to develop the long range plans necessary to plan, design and construct multi-year projects.

I do have two additional concerns with this legislation. The first concerns the distribution of the revenue. I believe that this money should be spent where the revenue is generated, that is on the highway, aviation and ports and harbors systems. I realize that this leaves nothing for the Marine Highway System; however, this system will generate no revenue for the fund and already receives a generous level of funding in the operating budget.

My second concern is with the make up of the Transportation Infrastructure Fund Advisory Council. The proposed council is far too large. I believe that a council of community leaders and transportation professionals totaling 9 individuals could best manage the selection of projects and the distribution of funds. I recommend that the Council be made up of the following: the Chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees (serving as ex-officio council members), the DOT Commissioner or his/her designee, one public member from each of the 4 judicial districts and 2 public members at large. The public members would serve staggered six year terms with the governor limited to two appointments per term. Any additional appointments would be made by the House and Senate Chairs of Transportation.

Thank you very much for recognizing the need for this legislation and more importantly for acting to create the Transportation Infrastructure Fund. I applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Johansen".

Anton K. Johansen