



David Pruhs, Mayor

2 April 2025

Rep. Kevin J. McCabe
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support - House Joint Resolution 14 (HJR 14)

Dear Representative McCabe,

On behalf of the City of Fairbanks, I am writing to express our strong support for House Joint Resolution 14 (HJR 14), which advocates for the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and the Northern Rail Extension, supports increased defensive capabilities at Fort Greely, and encourages both a community-minded approach to rail expansion and the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.

HJR 14 recognizes the significant role that Alaska plays in Arctic strategy, defense operations, and resource development. As the only U.S. state bordering the Arctic Ocean, Alaska is uniquely positioned to contribute to national security and economic growth. The completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and the Northern Rail Extension is essential to achieving these goals.

The Port MacKenzie Rail Extension will provide a direct rail link between Interior Alaska and key tidewater access points, reducing transportation costs, improving energy security, and expanding market access for industries such as mining, agriculture, and natural gas. This project will also strengthen supply chains and provide an alternative transportation corridor in the event of natural disasters or port congestion.

Similarly, the Northern Rail Extension is critical to U.S. national security, particularly with the ongoing expansion of the Arctic Mission at Fort Greely. As home to the nation's missile defense system, Fort Greely plays a vital role in protecting the United States and its allies. However, it remains the only military base in Alaska without rail access. Completing this extension will provide a reliable and cost-effective means of transporting military equipment, personnel, and supplies, reinforcing our national defense posture in the Arctic as global competition intensifies.

Significant progress has already been made on both projects. The completion of Phase 1 of the Northern Rail Extension, including the Tanana River crossing, has brought the rail line within 70 miles of Delta Junction and Fort Greely. Likewise, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Alaska Railroad have completed nearly two-thirds of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension, demonstrating the project's feasibility and importance.





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The City of Fairbanks also supports HJR 14's emphasis on a community-minded approach to rail expansion. We urge the Alaska Railroad to work transparently with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure responsible and sustainable development. Additionally, we strongly encourage Alaska's congressional delegation to advocate for federal support to complete these vital projects. While other Arctic nations invest heavily in infrastructure, the United States must act to maintain its leadership in the region.

HJR 14 represents a unified commitment to economic growth, national security, and the resilience of Alaskan communities. The City of Fairbanks stands in full support of this resolution and urges its passage to secure a stronger future for Alaska and the nation.

Sincerely,

David Pruhs
Mayor

