

DENALI BOROUGH

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9 April 2025

Representative 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 Denali Borough, I am writing to express our full support for House Joint Resolution 14 (HJR 14), which advocates for the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and the Northern Rail Extension. These projects enhance defensive capabilities in the Interior, and improve the Alaska Railroad transportation network. We support a renewed commitment by the Alaska Railroad to embracing a community-minded approach to rail expansion and the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.

Expanding rail infrastructure can significantly reduce transportation costs and improve the efficiency of shipping bulk commodities and materials to and from Interior Alaska. The Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and Northern Rail Extension will expand market access for industries such as mining and agriculture and will strengthen our supply chain. The rail extensions bolster our transportation network, providing a more efficient means to transport freight, improving the safety of our roads and highways, and stimulating economic growth.

Millions of dollars have already been invested into planning, permitting, and pre-construction activities for these rail extension projects. Completing this infrastructure will create many new small business development opportunities for Alaskan companies in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Interior. Infrastructure improvements such as these rail extensions provide benefits that ripple out, improving conditions for all Alaskans.

We support HJR 14 and recognize the significance of these rail extension projects towards improving Alaska's economic security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Noel", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Noel
Mayor