

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693
PHONE: (907) 465-3250
FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Transportation Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HB 131, Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

Dear Chair Wilson:

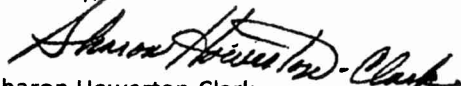
The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support of HB 131 that would establish a *permanent* Governor-appointed Coordinated Transportation Commission to address the ongoing community transportation needs of all Alaskans, specifically older Alaskans and Alaskans with physical and cognitive disabilities. This advisory board would be responsible for developing a long-range coordinated transportation plan that would include participating in policy-making decisions related to mobility of seniors and people with disabilities, identifying barriers related to community transportation, encouraging regional transportation planning to maximize limited resources and improving efficiencies, and providing assistance with coordinating resources to improve transportation services for people with special needs.

Transportation is one of the top needs consistently identified in statewide surveys of senior needs, including the elder-senior community forums and a statewide senior survey recently conducted by ACoA to determine priority concerns of older Alaskans. Seniors identified transportation not only as a barrier to accessing health care services but also as a factor leading to social isolation that prevents seniors from taking part in community life.

With the graying of Alaska's population, there will be an increasing number of older Alaskans who depend on reliable, safe, and accessible mobility options to take them to medical appointments, work, and volunteer placements, to the senior center for lunch, shopping and other purposes. Community transportation is a life-line for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure a health quality of life. Planning for effective transportation and efficient use of resources that serves all Alaskans is an investment in our future.

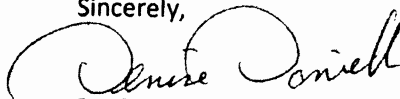
Thank you for your consideration and support of HB 131. Please contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879 or denise.daniello@alaska.gov) should you require additional information about our position.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Vice-Chair Lance Pruitt
Representative Eric Feige
Representative Craig Johnson

Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Pete Peterson
Representative Cathy Muñoz