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5 February 2014

Neil MacKinnon  
President

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Rosemary Hagevig  
Vice President

RE: Senate Joint Resolution 16

Joseph Kahklen  
Secretary

Dear Senator Giessel:

Frank Bergstrom  
Treasurer

The First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) wishes to express our support for SJR 16 and our appreciation for your raising this important issue to Alaskans. The First Things First Alaska Foundation is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the inappropriate nature of the federal government financially supporting nongovernmental organizations who are attempting to prevent Alaska developing its natural resources.

Directors  
Corey Baxter  
Richard Burns  
Gail Dabaluz  
Naomi Hobbs  
John Sandor  
Ursula Sfraga  
Scott Spickler

The introduction and hearing of SJR 16 will foster a needed public discussion of the many ways the federal government is granting federal funds to organizations who are dedicated to the opposition of Alaska developing its resources as provided in our state constitution and Alaska's Statehood Compact.

Denny DeWitt  
Executive Director

Alaska has developed a strong and comprehensive permitting process to protect our natural surroundings while developing our resource base. The federal government should respect that process and the rights of Alaska to manage its resources. Funding nongovernmental organizations to challenge and litigate against Alaska is clearly an inappropriate use of federal funding.

We believe that SJR 16 is critically important to Alaska's future ability to develop its resources and provide economic development and jobs for its citizens.

Sincerely,

*Neil MacKinnon*

Neil MacKinnon  
President

**First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.**