

CITY OF SEWARD
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February 26, 2014

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission has worked to ensure that our state has a strong voice in influencing Federal Arctic Policy to recognize the needs of Alaska. In doing so it has also identified opportunities that we can take advantage of on our own without federal concurrence or intervention.

One such opportunity is also a need and that is for the development of viable infrastructure in and in support of the Arctic region. Like all infrastructures, this comes with a price and SB140/HB288 identifies a viable method for financing necessary development through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

The City of Seward supports these bills and recognizes that if we as a State are to be successful in the Arctic, we must have response capability and access to resources that can only be realized at a deep water port in the Arctic. We also recognize that developing such port or ports will require logistic and staging area support from outside the immediate Arctic region, and we must be prepared to address that need as well. If we as a state cannot provide that basic level of support, we fear that entities outside of the State of Alaska will do so instead. It would be a sad statement for our entry into the Arctic to be launched by another state.

The city requests your support for passage of SB140 and companion HB288 as a capitalization mechanism to develop the port infrastructure necessary to prosper in the Arctic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your work in making the Arctic opportunities a reality.

Respectfully yours,

James Hunt
City Manager,
Seward, Alaska