



4000 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 101
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Tel : (907) 273-1000
Fax: (907) 273-1099
www.colaska.com

March 20th, 2014

The Honorable Dennis Egan
State Capitol Room 9
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB 371

Dear Senator Egan,

I am writing to you on behalf of Colaska, Inc., in full support of HB 371. Colaska is the largest heavy civil contractor in the State, with operations in every region served by the Department of Transportation. Colaska companies, including QAP in the Central Region, Secon in the Southeast and Exclusive Paving in the Northern Region are extensively involved in airport and highway construction both on the road system and in remote areas, and we have experienced first-hand the delays and project impacts caused by the current system of land transfers and split authorities between different Departments within the State Government.

House Bill 371 will allow the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to efficiently administer the construction and maintenance programs for the State's highways, airports, and public facilities consistent with the public interest. It will serve the interests of the State by eliminating unnecessary delays in transfer of required gravel sources from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Transport, which will result in greater efficiency and cost savings to the State. In Alaska, the construction season is severely limited by the weather. Any delay to a project makes it susceptible to increased cost if re-mobilization of the crew and equipment is required, as might happen if the temperature drops too low for paving near the end of the season. In short, highway and airport construction in Alaska is intolerant of delays, and any unnecessary delay should be avoided if at all possible.

I believe the rights of the existing leaseholders are quite sufficiently protected by this bill, as are the Public Notice provisions, and I urge you, for the greater good, to promote HB 371.

Sincerely,

Ben Northey, CPC