

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Peggy Wilson
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
State Capitol Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 123 and HJR 10

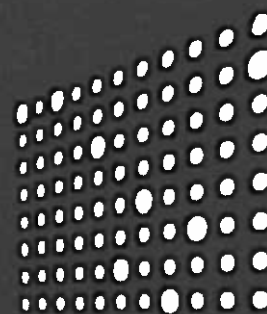
Dear Representative Wilson,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is an organization dedicated to improving the business climate in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of statewide businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. The Alaska Chamber supports House Bill 123 which defines an Alaska Transportation Fund and House Joint Resolution 10 which allows Alaskans to vote to re-instate a dedicated fund for transportation infrastructure.

The Alaska Chamber has, for the past several years, supported creation of a funding mechanism for maintenance of and capital improvements to Alaska's transportation systems. Alaska's transportation infrastructure is pivotal to the state's economy and facilitates access to markets, supplies and resources. Improving and investing in its transportation system will enhance the global competitiveness of Alaska businesses and economic opportunities for its people.

Currently Alaska's multi-modal transportation infrastructure is not only dilapidated, but lacks a consistent funding mechanism to address the billions of dollars of multi-modal needs. Alaska needs new transportation infrastructure development to provide access to resources, reduce barriers for many communities to participate in the economy, allow for safe and efficient transportation all Alaskans.

The State's highway and airport infrastructure is largely funded by Federal dollars, which are under severe threat of significant reductions in today's economy. Additionally, there are no consistent federal programs for harbors and ports.



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The State needs to be proactive and address today's needs while planning for a major future fiscal shortfall. Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachael A. Petro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Rachael A. Petro