

Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Centers

September 16, 2015

Alaska Commission on Aging
PO Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Support for Continuation of the Alaska Commission on Aging

The Coalition of Mat Su Senior Centers supports continuation of the Department of Health and Social Services Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), as recommended by the Division of Legislative Audit (Audit Control # 06-20090-15, dated April 10, 2015).

We concur with the findings of the audit, namely that the ACoA serves the public interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives through advocacy, outreach, and education. The ACoA was key to formulating Alaska's comprehensive State Plan for Senior Services, which identifies concerns and needs of older Alaskans, and fulfills a federal prerequisite to Alaska's receipt of grant funds through the Administration on Aging.

The ACoA is an effective advocate for older Alaskans – a role that takes on heightened importance given the state's rapidly rising population of seniors. Through efforts such as the Power of Aging Conference, Senior Housing Summit, and through their on-going efforts to monitor legislative, regulatory, and industry changes important to Seniors, the ACoA serves as a center of excellence for senior issues.

As Alaskans age and remain in the Alaskan community of their choosing, and as Americans choose to make Alaska their home in retirement, the "Senior industry" – now representing about \$3 billion to Alaska's economy – will grow. With this growth, the importance of the ACoA's work, in collaboration with agencies across the state, will also grow.

The members of the Coalition of Mat Su Senior Centers are dedicated to optimum outcomes for seniors in the Mat Su. Like the ACoA, we work to ensure seniors in the Mat Su will be able to remain in the community of their choosing, living as independently as possible for as long as possible, secure in their dignity and respected as valued elders.

Respectfully,



Ingrid Ling
Chair

Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Centers

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF MAT-SU SENIOR CENTERS -2015

CHAIR: INGRID LING, VICE-CHAIR: LARRY DEARMAN, TREASURER: HERMAN THOMPSON, SECRETARY: CHUCK FOSTER
General Member Organizations: Mat-Su Senior Services, Meadow Lakes Seniors, Inc., Mid-Valley Seniors, Inc.,
Upper Susitna Seniors, Inc., Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc., Willow Area Seniors, Inc.