



MAT-SU COUNCIL ON AGING

January 7, 2016

The Honorable Bill Stoltze
Alaska State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stoltze,

Enclosed, please find the Mat-Su Council on Aging's, August 11, 2015 letter of support, addressed to the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) specific to last year's Legislative Sunset Review Audit and their recommendation ACoA be extended an additional eight years to June 30, 2024.

Ms. Denise Daniello, Executive Director, ACoA has requested we forward our letter of support to your office.

Kindly let me know if you have questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,

Jim McCall, Chair
Mat-Su Council on Aging

PO Box 2754
Palmer, Alaska 99645

cc: Ms. Denise Daniello, ACoA
Ms. Rachel Greenberg, Vice Chair, MCoA
Ms. Ingrid Ling, Secretary, MCoA



August 11, 2015

Alaska Commission on Aging
Ms. Denise Daniello, Executive Director
PO Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693

Ms. Daniello:

At the direction of the Mat-Su Council on Aging (MCoA), it is my pleasure to provide you with this letter of support specific to the findings of the recent Legislative Sunset Review Audit wherein they recommend the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) be extended eight years to June 30, 2024.

While MCoA concurs with the April 10, 2015 audit findings, we also believe it is imperative we take time to address some of the reasons why we support an extension of ACoA and to take a moment to say thank-you. As Alaska leads the nation in per capita Senior growth, the value of ACoA for Seniors and their family members has never been greater. You, your staff and each Commissioner deserves recognition for your polite commitment and heartfelt passion in helping Seniors and Elders wherever they may reside across the Last Frontier. For that, we are extremely pleased and we express our sincere gratitude.

Since its legal inception 33 years ago, ACoA has embarked on a mission to ensure dignity and independence for older Alaskans. Over those years the Commission has assured individuals have useful and meaningful lives through countless hours of planning, advocacy, education, policy making and interagency partnerships. As the designated State Unit on Aging, ACoA has worked closely with partners to establish detailed state plans that cover a wide array of subjects impacting the lives of Senior Citizens. Put another way, ACoA has been the eyes and ears of many, many Seniors in Alaska since 1982.

In more recent years, the Commission has addressed several additional areas in an effort to address the many issues facing Alaska's aging population. They include, among others: Senior Housing Summit; Power of Aging Conference; Healthy Body/Healthy Brain campaign; Fall Prevention Coalition; Workforce Development; Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias; and, a report on the Economic Well-Being of Alaska Seniors. Through exploration of each of these very important topics you have opened doors; initiated



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dialogue; and provided much needed education to fellow Alaskans and elected officials on the vast needs of Seniors in our state. Likewise, you were instrumental in bringing attention to the fact Seniors represent an approximate \$3 billion industry within Alaska today - and for the state to retain that economic benefit - Alaska must be willing to continue to invest in programs and services that allow our elderly to remain here as they retire and enjoy their golden years.

Now, as Baby Boomers continue to retire in earnest and our Senior population expands even more, we ask that you continue to abide by your guiding principles of allowing Seniors to live with dignity and respect; remain independent for as long as possible; age in place in the least restrictive setting possible; and, assure Senior Citizens remain connected as valued members of their families and communities. As one of your partners, MCoA is equally committed to these principles and we look forward to working with you in achieving success.

Our warmest regards to you, your staff and all the Commissioners.

Respectfully,

Jim McCall, Chair
Mat Su Council on Aging

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Palmer, Alaska 99645