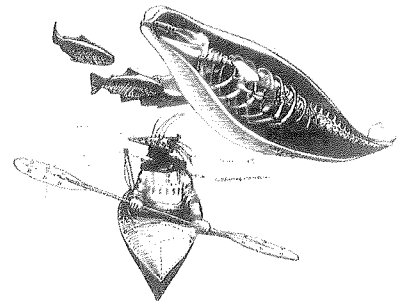


Pratt Museum

Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.

March 4, 2015



Representative Bob Herron
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Herron,

This letter is in support of House Bill 52, establishing a museum construction grant program. Thank you for your sponsorship of this bill, which provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in Alaska.

The nationally-recognized Pratt Museum serves as an anchor institution on the Kenai Peninsula, educating children and adults, and contributing to our community's sense of place and identity through history, art, and culture; and through exploration of the natural environment. Like museums all over Alaska, the Pratt contributes to the state's economy through employment and cultural tourism.

The Pratt Museum is one of the 50% of museums in Alaska currently fundraising for a new facility. With the passage of this legislation into law, construction projects will be funded by the merits of their projects, prioritized by their ability to match state funding, and where they are in the construction process.

Similar to the library construction statute, which has helped build 14 new libraries through \$50 million of awards, this legislation will allow museums to plan to protect valuable collections well into the future.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 52.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Diane Converse', written over a horizontal line.

Diane Converse
Museum Director/CEO



3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, Alaska 99603

Email: info@prattmuseum.org

Web: www.prattmuseum.org

(907) 235-8635

Fax: 235-2764



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