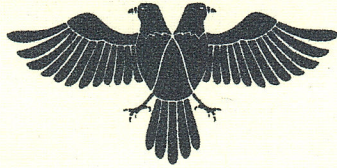


Alaska Historical Society



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February 9, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Alaska Historical Society would like to express enthusiastic support for **Senate Bill 7** (Museum Construction Grant Program) to assist with much-needed museum construction, expansion, and renovation.

Alaska's museums and cultural centers deserve support today and careful planning for the future because they serve communities large and small, helping to educate Alaskans, attract visitors, support community events, and preserve the public trust collections that document our statewide history.

Even in uncertain fiscal times, it is essential that museums and cultural centers receive the funding they need to improve and to address serious infrastructure problems as buildings age. A matching grant program can ensure that Alaska's cultural institutions continue to thrive—and in the process promote Alaska's proud past and amazing historical collections.

I serve on the Board of Directors of Alaska Historical Society as its president, and I work as a public historian. To me research into Alaska's past is both a profession and a hobby, and the state's museums help me to do my job by preserving artifacts and documents that exist nowhere else. Museums also serve as the public face of Alaska's history, attracting many thousands of Alaskans and visitors and illustrating for them the dramatic narrative arc of life in the Far North.

Alaska's museums and cultural centers not only help Alaskans to preserve their heritage but they create jobs and stimulate the economy by attracting tourism to the state. Please help them by passing SB7 to establish a construction grant program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Allan", written in a cursive style.

Chris Allan, President
Alaska Historical Society

cc Senator Dennis Egan, Senator Bert Stedman, Senator Click Bishop
cc Representative Justin Parish, Representative Dan Ortiz