

HB 166 and SB7 - Letters of Support
30th legislative Session

	Organization/Museum/Individual	Community	Contact
1	Valdez Museum Historical Archive	Valdez	Patricia Relay, Exec. Dir.
2	Jane Lindsey	Juneau	crow.hill@yahoo.com
3	Senator Click Bishop	Fairbanks	Capitol 121
4	City of Valdez Resolution	Valdez	Ruth E. Knight, Mayor
5	City of Ketchikan	Ketchikan	Lew Williams, Mayor
6	Yupit Piciaryrait Cultural Center, AVCP	Bethel	Eva Malvich, Director/curator
7	Alaska State Council of the Arts	Statewide	Kesler Woodard, Vice-Chair
8	Museums of Alaska	Statewide	Molly Conley, President
9	Hammer Museum	Haines	Cynthia Jones, President
10	Alaska Library Assn.	Statewide	S. Sexton, President
11	UAF Museum of the North	Fairbanks	Angela J. Linn
12	Pratt Museum	Homer	Laurie Stuart Morrow, Exec. Dir.
13	Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad	Fairbanks	Martin Gutoski, Museum Dir.
14	Sitka History Museum	Sitka	Kristy Griffin, Curator
15	Bunnell Street Arts Center	Homer	Asia Freeman, Artistic Dir.
16	Chugachmuit	Chugach region	Angela Vanderpool, Exec. Dir.
17	Janice Walen	Valdez	PO Box 1461. Valdez, AK 99696
18	Shana Anderson	Valdez	PO Box 1956, Valdez, AK 99696
19	Robert Banghart	Douglas	PO Box 241023, Douglas, AK 99824
20	FOJDCM - Friends of the Juneau Douglas Library	Juneau	Jane Lindsey, Juneau Museum Bd.
21	Alutiq Museum	Kodiak	April Laktonen Counciller, Exec. Dir.
22	Kodiak Maritime Museum	Kodiak	PO Box 1876, Kodiak AK 99615
23	Kodiak Historical Society _ Baranov Museum	Kodiak	Tiffany K. Brunson, Exec. Dir.
24			



March 9, 2017

Representative Justin Parish
Alaska State Capitol
Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Parish,

I am contacting you today to thank you for your support of **HB166, establishing a museum construction grant program and companion bill SB7**. Research shows that almost half of all museums in the state are either currently involved in a construction project or will be in the next five years. That is incredible... this bill provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in the state.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring tourism and partnering with schools to teach the local curriculum. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing by:

- Employing over 260 Alaskans;
- Spend over \$23,553,294. annually in the State;
- Host over 624,695 visitors annually; and
- Server over 36,290 school children annually.

Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal, local and charitable giving. As collections grow and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. The **Valdez Museum & Historical Archive** is no stranger to this dilemma. The **Valdez Museum & Historical Archive** has accomplished a lot within the past few years: incorporating a successful expanded range of public programming, major upgrades to several exhibits, increasing its visitation, and raising its standards of collection management. Despite these achievements, the institution is now at a point in which its progress is being hampered by limitations of space. In order to maintain and improve its standards of professionalism, and to preserve its vision for the future, the organization needs to move away from its current environment of shared-purpose space and move towards a facility with dedicated space designed for single-use functionality.

P.O. Box 8 • 217 Egan Dr. Valdez, AK 99686 • P 907.835.2764 • F 907.835.5800

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Valdez Museum
HB 166 & SB 7 Letter of Support
Page 2.

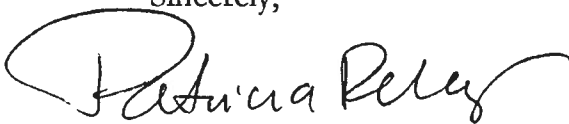
At the core of our mission is education. Over the years we have had numerous teachers share their gratitude for how the Valdez Museum supports their work. Recently, Sheri Beck, a 4th grade teacher with the Valdez City Schools shared with our Museum Educator,

"I just returned from a National Social Studies Convention in New Orleans. I thought of you so many times and wished we could be brainstorming side by side! I was also reminded how fortunate we are in Valdez, and in my partnership with you, to have our local museum available for help and support. Thank you! Your recent lesson with my students using artifacts and primary sources was such a wonderful example of what we heard at the conference as stellar teaching."

Without the proper care and housing of the Museum's collections we would not be able to offer robust education programs.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 166 and supporting SB 7, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the state of Alaska may continue to serve their communities. Help us make these bills a reality and speak up for Alaska's museums!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Relay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Patricia Relay,
Executive Director

March 9, 2017

Representative Justin Parish
Alaska State Capitol, Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Parish,

As a member of Museums Alaska, a statewide association of museum professionals and the Director of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, I would like to thank you for your support of HB 166, an act establishing a museum construction grant program and companion bill to SB 7.

Recently, as a board member of the American Association of State and Local History, I attended the American Alliance of Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., to share the important work that Alaskan museums do. We were proud to share our advancing state bills and report that in 2014-2016 Alaskan Museums competitively applied for and were awarded almost 4 million dollars in project support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museums and Library Services. These grant funds produced projects that serve the public and preserve public trust collections.

With over 65 museums, cultural centers, historic houses and sites in operation in Alaska we know that small and large communities rely on museums and cultural centers as anchor institutions to deliver education services, research opportunities, exhibit local art and culture; provide public programs, and generate revenue through cultural tourism. Many of these institutions are in buildings never intended to be museums, yet they are preserving and exhibiting irreplaceable artifacts and history.

In 2014 the McDowell Group completed an **Infrastructure Needs Study of Alaska Museums and Capital Improvement Planning Guide** for the Foraker Group. This study documents capital improvement needs within the next five years. Exhibition space expansion or improvement; increase in facility size; collections storage expansion; and security improvements are the top four priorities for our institutions. The report states that capital needs are often deferred to staff to raise funds for projects "at least 10 times larger than a museum's annual budget." This same staff member can also be tasked with collections care, exhibits, programs, education, and generating operating funds.

HB 166 & SB 7 are zero fiscal note bills that create pathways for capital improvement projects when funding becomes available. Future capital funding requests can be ranked by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs subject to appropriation of funding through the legislative process. This grant program awards up to 50 percent of proposed costs to help build, expand, or renovate existing facilities, providing an effective framework to advance eligible shovel-ready projects if grant funding becomes available.

Demonstrated by the letters of support for SB 7, communities support their museums and are committed partners in their success and longevity.


Like the successful library construction grant program, HB 166 & SB7 encourages resourcefulness, partnering, and careful community planning. If this bill is passed it could enable the State of Alaska to receive federal infrastructure monies if they become available. This grant program can encourage

efficient and cost-effective energy usage in planning by encouraging sustainable energy initiatives and systems analysis.

Our Museum worked for over ten years to fund a ventilation and humidity retrofit in our museum housed in a historic building listed on the national register of historic places. These specialized museum environments are essential for best practices collection care and care of our wooden artifacts such as a rare fish trap, canoe, and other collections. Before our new system was put in place we were operating with the building's original 1951 oil fired-boiler. Our new all-electric air-source heat pump system has eliminated the need for oil, uses renewable energy and saves us on average \$10,000 annually in heating costs while adding cooling, humidification, and de-humidification into our Museum environment.

Advancing HB166 & SB7 to establish a construction and matching grant program is an effective framework to support current and growing capital needs of Alaskan museums as state and local economies improve and capital funding becomes available. I look forward to providing information and answering any questions that you may have. Thank you for your public service.

Best wishes,



Jane Lindsey
Museums Alaska member & museum professional
crow.hill@yahoo.com

CC Senator Gary Stevens, Senator Dennis Egan, Senator Bert Stedman, Senator Click Bishop

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-2327
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Interim:
1292 Sadler Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 456-8161
Toll Free: (800)336-7383

Senator Click Bishop

February 2, 2017

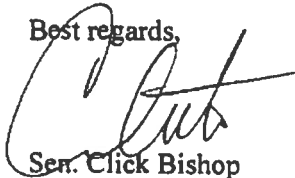
Patricia Relay, Executive Director
Valdez Museum & Historical Archives
PO Box 8
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Patricia:

I am happy to report that, during today's Senate floor session, I signed on as a co-sponsor of Senator Stevens' SB 7, the museum construction grant program. I was happy to see Senator Stedman and Senator Egan sign on, as well.

Hopefully, the bill will be given a full and fair hearing in the near future.

Best regards,


Sen. Click Bishop

Happy to be of service!

E-Mail: Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov
Website: www.alaskasenate.org/bishop/

CITY OF VALDEZ ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 17-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 7, ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, in its current legislative session, will be considering whether to approve SB 7, acts establishing a matching grant program for museum construction, expansion, and major renovation; and

WHEREAS, an entity, individual, organization, or municipality in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department; and

WHEREAS, subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant; and

WHEREAS, "major renovation" means a significant physical upgrade that allows a museum to better preserve artifacts and present artifacts to the public or improve space to allow a museum to provide improved educational services to the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Valdez, Alaska, that:


The Valdez City council hereby supports Alaska State Senate Bill 7, acts establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 21st day of February, 2017.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk



CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 17-2657

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 7, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, in its current legislative session, will be considering whether to approve SB 7, an act establishing a matching grant program for museum construction, expansion, and major renovation; and

WHEREAS, an entity, individual, organization or municipality in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department; and

WHEREAS, subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than fifty percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant; and

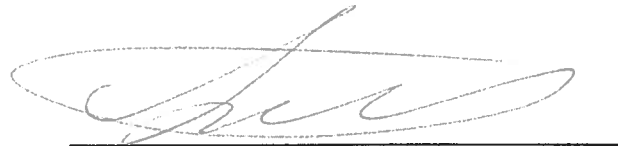
WHEREAS, “major renovation” means a significant physical upgrade that allows a museum to better preserve artifacts and present artifacts to the public or improve space to allow a museum to provide improved educational services to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska as follows:

Section 1: The Ketchikan City Council supports the passage of Legislative Senate Bill 7.

Section 2: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of Ketchikan on this 2nd day of March, 2017.



Lew Williams III, Mayor

ATTEST:



Katherine M. Suiter, City Clerk

AVCP

Raymond Watson, Chairperson
Vivian Korthuis, CEO
Phone: (907) 543-7300
Fax: (907) 543-3369
Web: www.avcp.org

Association of Village Council Presidents
Administration
Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559

The Voice of the Region



February 14, 2017

Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Cheformak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyak
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

Representative Fansler
Alaska State Capitol
Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Fansler:

I am contacting you today to ask you to **support SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program**. Research shows that almost half of all museums in the state are either currently involved in a construction project or will be in the next five years. That is incredible... this bill provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in the state.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring tourism and partnering with schools to teach the local curriculum. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing by:

- Employing over 260 Alaskans;
- Spend over \$23,553,294. annually in the State;
- Host over 624,695 visitors annually; and
- Server over 36,290 school children annually.

Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal, local and charitable giving. As collection grow and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. The **Association of Village Council Presidents Yupiit Piciryarait Museum** is no stranger to this dilemma. The **Yupit Piciryarait Museum** has accomplished a lot within the past few years: incorporating a successful expanded range of public programming and raising its standards of collection management. Despite these achievements, the institution is now at a point in which its progress is being hampered by limitations of space. In order to maintain and improve its standards of professionalism, and to preserve its vision for the future, the organization needs to move away from its current environment of shared-purpose space and move towards a facility with dedicated space designed for single-use functionality.

The Yupiit Piciryarait Museum is housed in the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, the facility that was built in 1994 for purposes of housing the former Yugtarvik Museum collection, when the original museum burned down due to electrical fire in May, 1980. Over the years, the museum has lost the capability of managing the humidity control when our HVAC was shut down. In addition, we have lost critical museum space to the Kuskokwim Campus, despite having to pay the same lease amount. We are struggling to keep the museum open and need the extra space to bring in funding to keep our doors open.

I urge you to support SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the state of Alaska may continue to serve their communities. Help us make this bill a reality, speak up for Alaska's museums!

Sincerely,

Eva Malvich, Director/Curator
Yupit Piciryarait Museum, AVCP
PO Box 219 Bethel, AK 99559

CC Senator Stevens

2/8/17

Senator Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing today in strong support of SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program for Alaska. As you know, this bill simply provides a framework for establishing a rational, systematic approach to prioritizing capital requests for funding for museum projects statewide.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska not only underpin Alaska's educational and cultural infrastructure, but contribute significantly to the state's economy. They currently employ hundreds of Alaskans, host over 600,000 visitors a year, and serve more than 35,000 Alaska school children annually.

Museums and cultural facilities are at risk in Alaska today, with decreasing state, federal, and municipal support and challenges to charitable giving. As cultural collections statewide grow and visitation increases, pressure on the museum infrastructure increases, and access to historical and cultural collections statewide must be managed effectively.

The core mission of museums is education, for Alaskans and visitors. Without proper care and adequate facilities, Alaska's museum collections will not be able to continue to offer robust educational programs in the future. Thank you for sponsoring SB7, which will provide a framework that will enable museums throughout the state of Alaska to continue to serve their communities.

Sincerely,



Kesler Woodward
Vice-Chair, Alaska State Council on the Arts
President, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation

cc: Senator Bishop, Senator Egan, Senator Stedman, Representative Parish, Representative Ortiz



MUSEUMS ALASKA

The Statewide Museum Association
museumsalaska.org | PO Box 80641 | Fairbanks, AK 99708 | (907) 306-3409 | director@museumsalaska.org

PRESIDENT

Molly Conley
Alaska Office of History &
Archaeology, Anchorage

VICE PRESIDENT

Hayley Chambers
Ketchikan Museums

TREASURER

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Anchorage

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Scott Bartlett
Pratt Museum, Homer

Jacqueline Fernandez
Sheldon Jackson Museum,
Sitka

Andrew Goldstein
Valdez Museum &
Historical Archive

Angela Linn
Museum of the North,
Fairbanks

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Della Hall

February 22, 2017

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

Dear Senator Stevens,

Thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 7, establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Museums Alaska stands ready to partner in efforts to ensure that the new grant program effectively assesses needs of museum capital projects statewide, much as the Alaska Library Association partners with the state to provide a ranking of library capital projects under the library construction grant program.

Museums Alaska, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the professional association of museums and cultural centers in Alaska. We serve over 100 members, providing an annual conference for professional development, newsletters, advocacy, and a re-grant program by administering two Rasmuson Foundation funds. We partner closely with the Alaska State Museum to expand statewide services to museums and collaborate regularly with the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Historical Society.

Following the state's model for library construction projects, we support developing a mechanism that provides equitable access to funding through a competitive grant program and statewide ranking of projects. SB 7 accomplishes that mechanism through which future funding may be sought. Even without immediate appropriations into the fund, the mechanism can provide a solid ranking of capital projects to aid in legislative decision-making during the capital budget process, as is currently the case with the library program.

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation that will allow us to better fund the needs of our aging museums and cultural centers across the state. They are the keepers of our collective history.

Sincerely,

Molly Conley
President



SB 7

Museum Construction, Expansion, and Major Renovation Matching Grant Program

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size. They educate children and adults through history dissemination, community events and cultural identity. They are caretakers of public trust collections that document our statewide history. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism.

Foresight: Museums Alaska clearly recognizes the fiscal challenges our state and communities are facing.

- ❖ We advocate for the passage of **SB 7** to establish an effective framework to support current and growing capital needs of Alaskan museums as state and local economies improve and capital funding becomes available.
- ❖ **This bill is void of a fiscal note.** Future capital funding requests will be ranked by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs subject to appropriation of funding through the legislative process. The matching grant program is designed to award up to 50 percent of proposed costs to help build, expand, or renovate existing facilities exhibit and preserve Alaskan collections held in the public trust.

Goal: Advancing **SB 7** will establish a construction and major expansion matching grant program to successfully build, expand, or renovate facilities that exhibit and preserve Alaskan collections.

Reality: A 2014 McDowell Group survey for the Foraker Group demonstrated critical infrastructure needs for our cultural institutions that care for and exhibit Alaskan collections.

- ❖ Of the 36 museums contacted 75% identified significant capital improvement needs within the next five years. Exhibition space or improvement; increase in facility size; collections storage expansion; and security improvements were listed as the top priorities.

Basis: Since the passage of **SB 119** in 2008, the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program has successfully provided fourteen Alaska communities with financial assistance to help construct and expand public libraries.

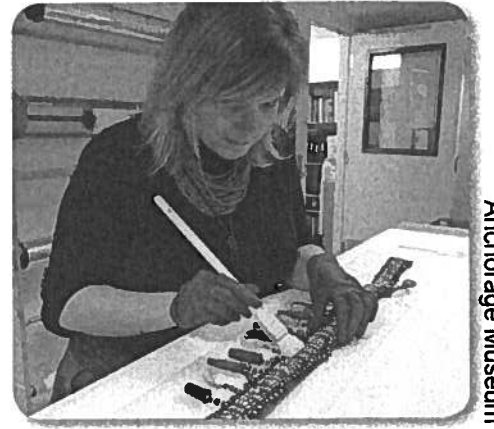
- ❖ **SB 7** sponsored by Senator Stevens continues a commitment to our cultural institutions to facilitate a capital program for museums in creating an act establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Museums Alaska is a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals who work to provide opportunities and improvement for Alaskan Museums and Cultural Centers.

MUSEUMS ALASKA

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size.

They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment, cultural tourism and educational programs.



Anchorage Museum

260

Alaskans Employed by Museums

\$23,553,294

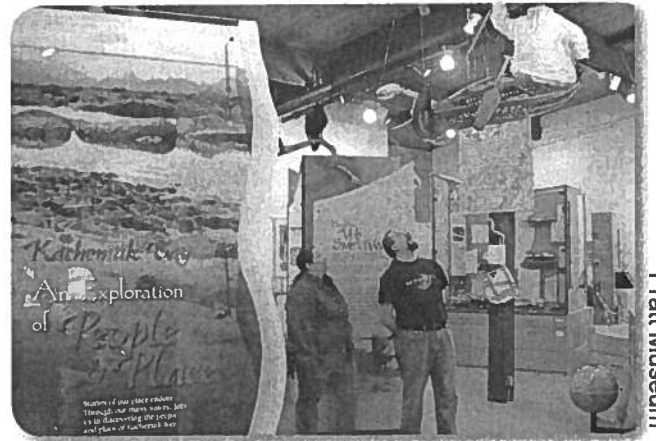
Spent Annually in Alaska by Museums



Sheldon Jackson Museum

624,695

Annual Visitors to Alaskan Museums



Pratt Museum

36,290

School Children Served Annually by Museum Educational Programs



Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum

33

Museums plan major renovation or construction projects in the next five

40 of the 50 Museums and Cultural Centers in Alaska took part in this survey.



Berengia Center

Economic and Educational Impact of Alaska Museums

Museum/ Cultural Center	Location	Paid Staff	Annual Budget	Annual Visitation	K-12 Visitors	Planned capital project
Alaska Aviation Museum	Anchorage	6	\$ 500,000	25,000	2,800	Yes
Alaska Heritage Museum	Anchorage	2	\$ 12,000	10,500	600	Yes
Alaska Jewish Museum	Anchorage	3	\$ 130,000	2,500	1,200	Yes
Alaska State Museums	Juneau & Sitka	16	\$ 1,832,000	50,537	7,000	Yes
Alaska Veterans Museum	Anchorage	0	\$ 43,000	7,000	633	Yes
Alaska Warbird Museum	Yakutat	0	\$ 50,000	500	N/A	Yes
Alutiq Museum & Archaeological Repository	Kodiak	11	\$ 1,000,000	8,000	1,000	Yes
Anchorage Museum	Anchorage	62	\$ 9,200,000	179,052	3,251	Yes
Beringia Center of Culture & Science	Nome	3	\$ 175,921	5	104	Yes
C'e'k'aedi Hwnax 'Legacy House'	Copper Center	5	\$ 100,000	5,700	150	No
Clausen Memorial Museum	Petersburg	3	\$ 96,211	3,327	260-600	Yes
Cordova Historical Society & Museum	Cordova	4	\$ 125,000	7,500	1,200	Yes
Dorothy G. Page Museum	Wasilla	2	\$ 190,000	9,000	1,000	Yes
Duncan Cottage Museum	Metlakatla	1	\$ 10,000	500	150	Yes
Eagle Historical Society & Museums	Eagle	1	\$ 29,000	450	20	Yes
Elfin Cove Museum	Elfin Cove	1	\$ 250	675	N/A	Yes
Hammer Museum Inc.	Haines	2	\$ 22,000	4,800	20-40	Yes
Ilnaka Cultural Center	Cordova	2	\$ 450,830	2,800	200	Yes
Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center	Klukwan	18	\$ 95,200	500	75	Yes
Juneau-Douglas City Museum	Juneau	4	\$ 425,700	11,865	2,862	Yes
Kasilof Regional Historical Museum	Kasilof	0	\$ 9,000	500	60	Yes
Ketchikan Museums	Ketchikan	8	\$ 924,435	57,000	400	Yes
Kodiak Historical Society & Baranov Museum	Kodiak	7	\$ 300,000	10,000	1,000	Yes
Kodiak Maritime Museum	Kodiak	1	\$ 65,000	2,500	25	Yes
Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum	Valdez	4	\$ 113,000	4,000	500	No
McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum	McCarthy	2	\$ 2,000	5,000	N/A	Yes
Pioneer Air Museum	Fairbanks	6	\$ 30,000	2,000	120	Yes
Port Alexander Museum	Port Alexander	0	\$ 2,500	100	12	Yes
Pratt Museum	Homer	10	\$ 520,000	25,000	2,500	Yes
Seldovia Museum	Seldovia	1.2	\$ 120,000	4,800	110	No
Seward Community Library & Museum	Seward	4.5	\$ 545,822	6,865	458	No
Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center	Haines	7	\$ 330,000	12,000	1,400	Yes
Skagway Museum	Skagway	4	\$ 215,000	24,000	1,000	Yes
Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum	Talkeetna	2	\$ 90,000	14,000	120	Yes
Tochak Historical Society & Museum	McGrath	0	0	500	200	No
UA Museum of the North	Fairbanks	36	\$4,300,000	90,000	3,500	Yes
Valdez Museum & Historical Archive	Valdez	8	\$ 731,336	20,000	1,500	Yes
Wickersham House Museum	Fairbanks	6	\$ 12,000	11,800	N/A	No
Wrangell Museum	Wrangell	6	\$ 231,000	3,600	200	No
Yupitit Piciryarit Museum	Bethel	2	\$ 130,000	1,500	300	Yes

Museums Alaska is a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers. Our mission is to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and culture center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and culture centers. www.museumsalaska.org

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

Dear Senator Stevens,

The board and staff of the Hammer Museum are writing to you in support of SB 7, the Museum Construction, Expansion, and Major Renovation Matching Grant Program, to establish an effective framework to support current and growing capital needs of Alaskan museums. We understand that the bill is void of a fiscal note, but in a survey of 36 Alaskan Museums (less than half of Alaska's museums), 75% identified significant capital improvement needs within the next 5 years. If this bill is in place, funding can more easily be applied when the economy improves to provide much needed grants for critical priorities such as exhibition space improvement; increase in facility size; collections storage expansion; security improvements, new construction, etc. A similar program has worked well for improving Alaskan libraries since 2008.

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size. Contributors to life-long learning through history dissemination, community events and cultural identity, they are caretakers of public trust collections that document our statewide history. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism.

We applaud and thank you for your forward thinking and efforts to support Alaskan Museums.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Jones, President
Gene Kennedy, Vice President
Greg Rasmussen, Treasurer
Michael Marks
Eric Kocher
Tom Lang
Richard Cook

Ashleigh Reid, Director
Dave and Carol Pahl, Founders

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



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PO BOX 81084, FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 WWW.AKLA.ORG

**Resolution
In Support of Senate Bill No. 7
Museum Construction Matching Grant Program**

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature wisely established a major renovation/new construction grant program for public libraries in 2008; this grant residing in DCCED and,

WHEREAS although unfunded, the program allows for public libraries with building projects to authenticate their “shovel-readiness” and be placed upon a construction readiness matrix maintained by the Alaska Library Association, and

WHEREAS the construction readiness matrix has proven useful in legislative line-item funding requests; public libraries in Alaska having received over \$54 million in capital funding since the legislation passed, and

WHEREAS this funding has allowed major construction projects in 15 public libraries in as many communities, thereby improving library services and information access to a huge number of Alaskans, and

WHEREAS communities that have benefited from the program with new or renovated public libraries are Cordova, Kenai, Seward, Petersburg, Barrow, and Sutton in 2011; Soldotna, Ketchikan, Skagway and Kodiak in 2012; Talkeetna and Sitka in 2013; and partial funding for North Pole and Wasilla in 2014, and

WHEREAS museums and cultural centers have a close relationship with public libraries; in many communities library collections, archival materials, and museum collections and other historical materials are co-located, and

WHEREAS many students, communities, and Alaska history collections could benefit from a museum/cultural center construction grant program akin to the one for public libraries, and

WHEREAS museums, cultural centers, and libraries form a natural learning alliance,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Library Association endorses and wholeheartedly supports a legislative initiative, SB 7, to provide a grant program for constructing and renovating museums and cultural centers in Alaska.

Signed,

President, 2016-2017

Alaska Library Association

Reapproved by the Executive Council: 20 February 2017



February 6, 2017

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

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am contacting you today to thank you for your **support of SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program**. Research shows that almost half of all museums in the state are either currently involved in a construction project or will be in the next five years, and that includes the UA Museum of the North. This bill provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in the state.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring tourism and partnering with schools to teach the local curriculum. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing by:

- Employing over 260 Alaskans (~92 Fairbanksans alone);
- Spending over \$23,553,294 annually in the State (UAMN's annual operating budget is \$4.9 million, approximately 1/3 of which is a result of grants and contracts);
- Hosting over 624,695 visitors annually (UAMN welcomed around 90,000 visitors in FY16); and
- Serving over 36,290 school children annually (approximately 2500 Fairbanks kids visited UAMN last year).

Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal, local, and charitable giving. As collections grow and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. The **UA Museum of the North** is no stranger to this dilemma. We are proud of our accomplishments: we're expanding and developing new public programming, adding new private and corporate sponsorships to those established supporters, successful in-house curated exhibitions focusing on Fairbanks-based expertise and collections strengths, increasing visitation and collections usage by professional and amateur researchers (over 2,000 individual contacts with researchers or visitors to collections last year), while continuing to add thousands of artifacts and specimens (over 73,000 items last year) through donations, scientific field collecting, and agreements with agencies. Regardless of these achievements, we are hampered by a 37-year-old exhibit gallery and increasingly diminished collections curation space. In order to maintain and improve our world-class reputation as the largest assemblage of natural, cultural, and art history collections in the state and as a top visitor attraction for Interior Alaska, we will need to renovate our public gallery as well as identify a solution to our growing collections curation space crisis. And we are but one of dozens of Alaskan museums and cultural centers who desperately need infrastructure improvements who could be helped through this new grant program.

Thank you for supporting SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the state of Alaska may continue to serve their communities by preserving our collective heritage. By helping us make this bill a reality, you are speaking up for Alaska's museums.

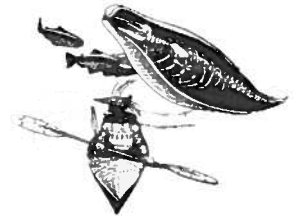
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela J. Linn".

Angela J. Linn
Senior Collections Manager, Ethnology & History
ajlinn@alaska.edu

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

Pratt Museum



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

February 19, 2017

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing to thank you for sponsoring SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, and to provide testimony in support of this bill. In May 2018, the Pratt Museum will celebrate its 50th year as a culture-bearer and gathering space on the southern Kenai Peninsula. As someone who grew up in Soldotna, I can testify to the critical role this museum plays in providing inspiration and education related to natural history, human history, art, culture, and community dialogue. Despite the additions that have been added to the original building over the years, the museum is in critical need of upgrades, further expansion, or a new facility.

In an effort to protect our valuable collection items according to best practices in the industry and to become physically accessible to all of our community members, the Pratt Museum began a capital campaign over 10 years ago. As a private nonprofit, it is challenging to compete for priority on city, state, or federal budgets, despite the services that a museum provides for the community. To date, we have secured less than one-third of the funds needed to address our needs and to protect the cultural and historical objects housed in our facility.

Our story is not unique. Almost half of all museums in the state are currently involved in construction efforts or plan to be within the next five years. SB7 would help these nonprofit entities by establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in the state. In addition to the tangible impact of protecting the public's assets, museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring in-state and out-of-state tourism. Our organizations employ over 260 Alaskans, spend over \$23million dollars within the State, host nearly 625,000 visitors and serve over 36,290 students annually.

Arts and culture are critical components of human and community development, and our mission is best achieved through the participation of all stakeholders. Thank you for speaking on behalf of the important work being done through Alaska's museums and cultural organizations.

Sincerely,

Laurie K. Stuart Morrow
Executive Director/CEO

CC: Senator Bishop, Senator Egan, Senator Steadman, Rep Parish, Rep Ortiz, Rep Seaton



3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, Alaska 99603-7579
Email: info@prattmuseum.org Web: www.prattmuseum.org

(907) 235-8635
Fax: 235-2764



PO Box 84498, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Senator Bishop,

Feb 5, 2017

I am the director of the Tanana Valley Train Museum at Pioneer Park in Fairbanks. The Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad (FTVRR) supports SB-7 that pertains to museum construction. Our museum was built in 2006 by a matching grant from FTVRR and the FNSB to support construction with DOT IceT funding for historic transportation museums.

Our museum is the most recent one that was built at Pioneer Park since it was founded as Alaskaland in 1967. The train museum is a modern structure opened in 2006 that houses our 1899 built steam engine which was the first locomotive in Fairbanks since 1905. However, I am not speaking on behalf of any benefit of this bill directed at our museum, *but more in support for a neighboring museum across the playground at the park, the Pioneer Air Museum (PAM) under the leadership of Pete Haggland.*

Pete has been proactive in trying to upgrade the facilities at the PAM since 1992 after the geodesic gold dome was converted from a skating rink to house a small collection of historic aircraft that brought the Alaska interior into the age of flight. The dome was unheated until 1994 and has had some upgrades for fire and safety since then. *But the most needed upgrade is the abysmal condition of sanitary facilities for the visiting public and the museum staff.*

The museum has no potable water inside except by bottled containers, nor does it have any restrooms available other than a waterless porta potty outside or the requirement that people must either go to the public facility cabins near the playground, civic center or our train museum located several hundred feet away.

Pete has been diligent in obtaining design studies on spec from supportive A&E firms that have provided rough design estimates to construct an addition onto the museum that would provide the much-needed sanitary facilities for the public along with a small meeting room and an extension for the shop area used in aircraft restoration work.

I feel that SB-7 will be useful to help remediate clear-cut problems of public need like those facing the PAM and other more aged museums in Pioneer Park and elsewhere throughout Alaska that have fallen onto hard times due to long term service to Alaskans to let them know how they got here today.

Martin Gutoski
FTVRR Museum Director
mardeb@gci.net
907-378-9122 c
907-488-0927 m

Executive Director - Hal Spackman
Curator - Kristy Griffin



The Sitka History Museum

210 Seward Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835
907-747-6455
907-747-6588 FAX

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Mission: To preserve and promote the events, stories and artifacts of the human history of Sitka, as part of the Pacific Northwest coast of North America, to inspire, educate and benefit the Public and future generations.

www.sitkahistory.org

 Like us on Facebook

February 16, 2017

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

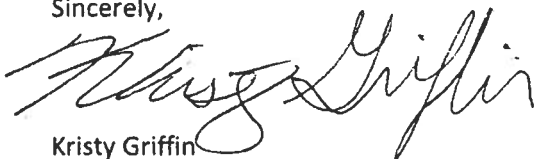
Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing to advocate for the proposed Senate Bill No. 7, which would establish a framework to support the capital needs of Alaskan museums. The grant matching program provided by SB 7 will impart much needed financial support for the construction, expansion, and renovation of facilities that are tasked with caring for Alaskan collections held in the public trust.

Museums have the power to make our communities a better place by promoting a deeper understanding of our collective heritage, by fostering dialogues that can bridge cultural divides and encourage the healing of cultural trauma, and by providing a solid foundation for the formation and preservation of community identity. Museums contribute to Alaska's future, as research shows that children who visit museums not only have higher achievement scores in reading, mathematics, and science, but they also exhibit an increase in empathy, tolerance, and critical thinking skills. Museums also help to support the local economy by providing jobs to their community and promoting tourism.

For all that Alaska museums are tasked with, many struggle to find the financial support to make the capital improvements necessary to ensure the safety and preservation of their collections and to facilitate the continued development of rich exhibits for the benefit of the public. The Sitka History Museum has been actively engaged for the past year in a capital campaign to fund complete renovations of its exhibition and collections space. In spite of the many generous donations to the Museum, had SB 7 been a possible resource for our institution, the Sitka History Museum could have undoubtedly opened its doors to the public sooner and with enhanced exhibits, research facilities, and collections storage solutions. I sincerely hope that the grant matching program provided by SB 7 will be available to other Alaskan museums and cultural heritage centers in the future, and I thank you for your continued commitment to protect, preserve and promote Alaska's cultural institutions.

Sincerely,



Kristy Griffin

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

BUNNELL STREET ARTS CENTER

106 West Bunnell, Suite A
Homer, AK 99603
www.bunnellarts.org

*innovative, exceptional art in all media for
diverse audiences*

Senator Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

February 18, 2017

Dear Senator Stevens

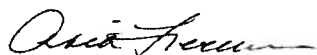
I am writing today to support SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program. Alaskan museums are in a vibrant state of growth and this bill provides necessary infrastructure for prioritizing museum capital funding requests in our state.

As we consider the economic challenge ahead of diminishing oil reserves and its impact to state funding, its vitally important that we strengthen sustainable alternative resources such as education, cultural tourism and employment. Alaskan museums play a very big role in our state as an economic engine, cultural attraction and educational partner to our schools.

Museums employ over 260 Alaskans, spend over \$23,553,294 annually in Alaska, host over 624,695 visitors each year and serve over 36,290 school children annually. Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk of decreased federal, local and charitable giving. As collections grow and visitation increases, we must plan for our aging infrastructure. All over Alaska, museums are accomplishing a great deal. As its collection increases and vibrant programs expand, Homer's Pratt Museum is limited by its space. The same is true for the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive. I have spent enough time in each of these spaces to see the necessity of renovation and expansion.

Thank you for sponsoring SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program!

Sincerely,



Asia Freeman
Artistic Director

Valdez
Tatitlek
Eyak
Chenega Bay Prince William Sound Gulf of Alaska
Outekcak

Port Graham
Nanwalek

Chugachmiut

February 10, 2017

Senator Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Room 429
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Stevens,

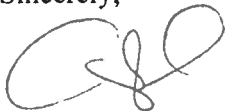
I am contacting you to add my voice to those that have provided testimony and support for SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program. Chugachmiut has several projects that are outgrowths of concerns, voiced by tribal parents from all seven of the Region's communities, that their children had little substance upon which to build a positive identity, including recognition of the value of their indigenous cultures. In response to those concerns, our Heritage Preservation Department staff is creating several projects to connect youth with their traditional cultures.

The heritage department has two tasks requiring collaboration with midsize museums in the Region. They are: first, to create Heritage Kits, cultural curricula aligned with the *Content Standards for Alaska Students* and the *Alaska Cultural Content Standards* to be used in schools, and second to continue development of Llangarklluku Lucillerpet Cuumi: *Becoming Aware of Our Beginnings*, an exhibition of artifacts collected from Chugach Region communities beginning with Captain James Cook's voyage into Alaskan waters in 1778 and continuing through the American Colonial Period.

Chugach youth, Valdez and Cordova Museums, the Ilanka Cultural Center, and the Pratt Museum, and Chugachmiut have all benefited from our partnerships. The Region's youth have high quality, interactive, place-based cultural programs. The museums have in turn used our kits to meet their charge of providing community outreach and education. We depend on museum professionals for guidance in program development.

Please share my letter of support for SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the State of Alaska may continue to serve their communities. Please help us make this bill a reality.

Sincerely,



Angela Vanderpool,
Executive Director



February 6, 2017
P.O. Box 1461
Valdez, AK 99686

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

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing to provide testimony for SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program.

I have worked with the Valdez Museum staff to provide a summer History and Art Camp for students, taught classes for adults, and displayed my own art in our museum. Having spent many weeks in and around the museum, I can tell you that the collections and programs have outgrown the available space. My friend, the Curator of Education and Public Programs, has an office in a dark space that used to be a closet. When we put on our History and Art Camp, we often must locate materials that have been stored in very strange and interesting places, simply because there is not enough room for storage. When we have a local art show, some pieces are displayed in the library because of lack of display area in the museum. Our museum needs a larger building in order to continue with the wonderful programs that they develop.

Thank you for sponsoring SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program so that museums may continue to provide their great educational programs in our Alaskan communities.

Sincerely,

Janice Whalen

2/5/2017

•••

Shana Anderson
Po Box 1956
Valdez Alaska 99686

Senator Stevens
Alaska State Capital
Room 429
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stevens,

For the purpose of providing testimony in support of SB7, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how much the Valdez Museum means to me and to the community of Valdez Alaska.

The museum has in the past several years provide myself and fellow community artists with a place to display our art work. Annually the museum hosts community art shows to showcase the wide variety of medias and talents of local artists. The museum also hosts regular shows to support the local quilters and other fiber artists.

Personally, the museum staff encouraged me to have a solo art show and provided me with tremendous support. There are no other museums or venues for over a 300 miles radius in which an artist can hope to hold a show and display their work.

Every year the Valdez Museum has a student art show that showcases young artists from kindergarten age through college. This show has grown so large over the years that much of the student art is also displayed in our local library, along with the art displayed in the museum.

The museum holds regular art and crafts classes for people of all ages. The museum hosts an annual summer art camp for kids, and also holds many Valdez and Alaska themed history events throughout the year.

The Valdez Museum and Historical Archives is an extremely important part of the community of Valdez, and it's staff of professionals do an amazing job to keep it that way!

In order to continue doing what it has been doing, the Valdez museum is in disparate need of expanding its facility. Many of its exhibits are now in storage due to lack of space in which to display them.

Po Box 1956

• • •

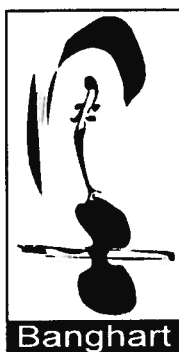
VMHA is not the only museum in the state that is facing issues with older buildings in need of repairs or expansion.

Please sponsor SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, in support of our Alaskan museums as they continue to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Shana Anderson

Shana Anderson



2.6.17

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

RE: SB7

Senator Stevens,

I write to thank you for your sponsorship and support of SB7, the Museum Construction Grant Program. Since 1976 my professional career has provided me direct involvement with the initiation, development and technical support of museums and cultural centers across Alaska. The long term value of these institutions cannot be overstated.

In community after community the implementation of a formal facility to hold, in the public trust, the collective history of that region and peoples has shown me how effective and productive state and local governmental support combined with local initiative can be. These are not just buildings. The facilities embody the spirit of the communities they serve and constantly reinvigorate the essential community dialog of understanding the past and present.

The secondary benefits of these institutions is the economic development the initial project can provide but more importantly the long term activity that will grow up around the institution. Whether that be tourism, arts and crafts, careers within the professions that serve museums and cultural centers or educational partnerships these facilities become, especially in rural areas, focal points for creating opportunities. We need these opportunities now more than ever.

Thank you for your continued support of museums and cultural centers and your sponsorship of SB7.

Respectfully

R. Banghart

CC:

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



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JUNEAU-DOUGLAS CITY MUSEUM SENATE BILL 7, ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;

WHEREAS, The Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is organized exclusively to engage in activities within the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) to maintain an association of persons interested in the mission of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; focus public attention on the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, facility, and needs; stimulate use of Juneau-Douglas City Museum services; receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; support and cooperate with the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in developing special services, programs, and exhibits; and do all and everything incidental to and in furtherance of the accomplishment of the objects and purposes stated herein.

WHEREAS, Museums and cultural centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size and contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism while protecting and promoting important regional cultural history and public trust collections.

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Walker issued a proclamation in October 2016 designating 2017 as a “The Alaska Year of History and Heritage to encourage all Alaskans to take the occasion of the 150th anniversary year to study, teach, reflect upon our past, and apply its lessons to a brighter, more inclusive future.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, in its current legislative session, will be considering whether to approve SB 7 sponsored by Senator Gary Stevens of Kodiak and co-sponsored by Senator Click Bishop, Senator Dennis Egan, and Senator Stedman, acts establishing a matching grant program for museum construction, expansion, and major renovation; and

WHEREAS, an entity, individual, organization, or municipality in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department; and

WHEREAS, subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant; and



WHEREAS, “major renovation” means a significant physical upgrade that allows a museum to better preserve artifacts and present artifacts to the public or improve space to allow a museum to provide improved educational services to the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum as follows:

Section 1: That the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum support the passage of Legislative Senate Bill 7.

Section 2: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum on this 6th day of February, 2017.

Joel Probst, Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum President
Mike Blackwell, Vice President, Juneau
Katrina Woolford, Treasurer
Kathryn Cohen, Board Member
Don Harris, Board Member
Jean McBrien, Board Member
Marcia Phillips, Board Member

February 3, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: SB7 - Museum Construction Grants

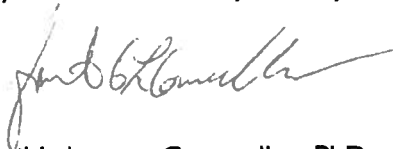
Dear Senator Stevens,

On behalf of the Alutiiq Museum, I am writing to share our enthusiastic support for SB7—the Museum Construction Grant Program. We are thrilled with your proposal to establish matching grants for museum capital projects through the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

From a broad perspective, we believe that this legislation will have an invaluable impact on the long-term preservation of Alaska cultures and history. In our large, diverse state, museums play a central role in making the past accessible to the present. Yet, this role carries the solemn responsibilities to provide exceptional care for collections and to make them publically accessible. Good facilities are at the heart of this work. Capital grants for facilities development will allow collecting institutions to upgrade and improve their repositories and insure the best possible care of our collective heritage.

For the Alutiiq Museum, this legislation is particularly timely. As you may know, the museum has outgrown its 5,000 square foot facility. The process of returning our ancestor's collections to Kodiak, conducting research, and accepting historic materials from our community, has filled our collections storage. Moreover, the success of our programs has increased our staff. A building once designed to hold four staff members will soon be home to ten! We have spread into the Alutiiq Center basement to accommodate this growth, but this is a short-term solution. Our long-range strategic goals is to develop a larger facility. A matching grant program from the State of Alaska would be a key piece of our funding strategy, and help us to secure significant funds from foundations, private investors, and community members to advance our work.

Quyanaa – We thank you for your leadership,



April Laktonen Counciller, PhD
Executive Director
april@alutiiqmuseum.org





KODIAK MARITIME MUSEUM

PO Box 1876 Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-0384
info@kodiakmaritimemuseum.org www.kodiakmaritimemuseum.org

February 10, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau AK, 99801 Best regards,

Dear Senator Stevens:

Thank you for sponsoring SB 7, establishing a state museum construction grant program. Alaska's museums are vital to the cultural life of the state, and important economically too, as they employ hundreds of Alaskans in many communities. The Board and Staff of Kodiak Maritime Museum (KMM) fully support your efforts to sponsor this bill and help it become law.

As you know, the State grant program of a few years ago to fund library construction around Alaska has been very successful, including helping to fund Kodiak's magnificent new library. The KMM Board and I believe a museum construction program can similarly transform the museum infrastructure of the state, and Kodiak.

Also as you know, Kodiak Maritime Museum has long been planning to construct a museum building of its own. Should this construction grant program eventually become available, it could provide the assistance necessary to build the first maritime museum in Alaska.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you pass this bill.

Thank you

Toby Sullivan
Executive Director

CC: Senator Dennis Egan, Senator Burt Stedman, Senator Click Bishop, Representative Justin Parish, Representative Dan Ortiz



KODIAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & BARANOV MUSEUM

***101 MARINE WAY, KODIAK, ALASKA 99615
(907) 486-5920 • baranov@ak.net
www.baranovmuseum.org***

February 3, 2017

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

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am contacting you today to express the Kodiak Historical Society and Baranov Museum's **support for Senate Bill 7, establishing a museum construction grant program**. A 2014 McDowell Group survey for the Foraker Group demonstrates critical infrastructure needs for our cultural institutions that care for and exhibit Alaskan collections. Many of the buildings our Museums are in were never meant to be used as museums or cultural centers, are over 50 years old, and have deferred maintenance needs that surpass operating budgets of the institutions.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring tourism and partnering with schools to teach the local curriculum. Despite the vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal, local and charitable giving. As collection grows and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. This bill would establish an effective framework to support current and growing capital needs of Alaskan museums as state and local economies improve and capital funding becomes available.

The Baranov Museum is no stranger to this trend. We opened with centennial funds in 1967. Though we have been lucky enough to receive needed funding to care for our building, originally built by the Russian-American Company in 1808 and the oldest building in Alaska, we do need funding for an exhibit renovation project. Our current exhibits were developed piecemeal over the last 50 years and are reflective of an older museums aesthetic which no longer adequately communicates Kodiak's rich history. Thanks to federal, state and private funding, we've been able to develop an exhibit design plan, but we need further support to construct the new permanent exhibits. Doing so would help us better use the incredible resources of our buildings and the collections built up over the last 50 years to share Kodiak's history with residents and visitors.

I thank you for your sponsorship of Senate Bill 7, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the state of Alaska may continue to serve their communities. The board and staff of the Kodiak Historical Society greatly appreciate and support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Tiffany K. Brunson
Executive Director
Kodiak Historical Society & Baranov Museum