The Honorable Governor Dunleavy Via email at <u>Michael.dunleavy@alaska.gov</u>

Honorable Governor Dunleavy

I was surprised to hear that funding for snowmobile trail grooming, education, and safety projects were not included in your proposed budget. I truly hope this was an unintended oversight on the part of your staff rather than an action taken with intent.

Background information: AS 28.39.020 authorized the Department of Administration/DMV to collect a snowmobile registration fee. Even though the statue does not state what the fees will go towards, it has been an ongoing cooperative understanding and promise that DMV would transfer all fees generated to the Department of Natural Resources/Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. It was agreed that the Division would establish a State Snowmobile Advisory Board (SnowTRAC) and that the funds collected from DMV would be dispersed and used for trail grooming, as well as snowmobile education and of course snowmobile safety projects throughout the state.

SnowTRAC has been in existence since 1999. DNR has included a line item for this funding in their Capital Budget <u>every year</u>. Our concern and the reason I am writing you today is this line item was inadvertently or intentionally left out of your proposed budget. I am asking that your office and our Legislature work together to restore the funding.

We as snowmobile sport enthusiasts are **NOT** asking for a handout, supplemental dollars, or *any other* special/specific funding from our great state of Alaska. SnowTRAC is truly a **revenue neutral program** that users (snowmobilers) asked for and fund out of our OWN registration dollars. The registration money collected funds trail care, safety and grooming activities that, in turn bring increased business through recreational opportunities within communities during our long Alaska winter months. I would consider this a model program where users (snowmobilers) pay their own way to promote the sport they love versus depending on our state to fund the program.

I ask that you reconsider the line item for us snowmobilers so we receive the funds we have put into the program with the expectations that the funds would be used for SnowTRAC programs throughout the state.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and your work to see that this program is fully restored.

Sincerely

David M Streit

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SnowTRAC and Proposed House Bill 23 (registration for Snowmobiles) Supporter!