



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

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March 24, 2021

Submitted Via email

Representative Zach Fields
24 Capitol
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Re: support for HJR 15, investment in the Port of Alaska

Dear members of the House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee,

I am writing regarding HJR 15, which requests funding from the United States Department of Defense to invest in the Port of Alaska.

The Port of Alaska is critical to the success of our economy, both in the Interior and throughout the state. Additionally, the Port of Alaska is critical to military mission and installation security, readiness, and resiliency. The Port of Alaska requires significant investment into critical infrastructure in order to continue operations that meet community, state, and military needs.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is home to US Army Alaska Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. Interior Alaska is also home to Clear Air Force Base in Anderson, Alaska and Fort Greely in Delta Junction. The military represents and contributes approximately 30% to the FNSB economy. The next few years are an exciting time for Fairbanks as we prepare for the arrival of two F-35 squadrons at Eielson Air Force Base. Interior Alaska is experiencing growth and investment in support of the mission expansion. This growth and investment could not occur without the Port of Alaska being fully operational to meet the needs of shipped goods. The Port of Alaska is of critical and strategic importance to the US Department of Defense in order to maintain mission and installation security, readiness, and resiliency.

Lastly, I urge Legislature to request that the Department of Defense consider using the newly funded Defense Critical Infrastructure Program (DCIP) as a potential funding mechanism.

Sincerely,

Bryce J Ward
FNSB Mayor