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February 22, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska Legislature,

Catalyst Marine encourages your support of the Alaska Railroad's efforts to receive legislative authority to bond for \$60 million for the replacement of the passenger cruise dock in Seward. The passenger dock is an important part of the infrastructure and the economy not just in Seward but all along the Railbelt. In Seward alone the passenger dock supports hundreds of jobs year-round, facilitating Tourism, the oil industry, commercial fisheries, and research vessels. Without a serviceable dock many of these industries would suffer tremendously.

Catalyst Marine cannot overemphasize the importance of this critical piece of infrastructure to the Seward community, southcentral region, and the State of Alaska! This is not just a seasonal facility used by the Cruise Industry that sits vacant the rest of the year. Catalyst, and other vendors, rely on this dock for scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs on many of the different vessels that support Alaska's industry. All companies, including ours, that support the development of Alaskan projects in Southcentral, the Interior, Western Alaska, and North Slope depend on this dock and its ability to safely provide a working platform for vessel repair in the times passenger ships are not using it. Since Seward is a year-round ice-free port, vessels arrive YEAR-ROUND and count on this dock to keep their operation up safely and efficiently running to supporting our entire state.

The current dock was built in 1966, has outlived its intended service life, and must be replaced to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. The visitor support in our community and the jobs of thousands of other Alaskans who do everything from drive buses, work in coffee shops, run small and large hotels, provide visitor adventures, and just about anything else you can imagine doing in Alaska in the summer. Additionally, the bed taxes, head taxes, sales taxes, and other fees that those visitors pay support necessary services for the residents of Alaska.

Key to this proposal is that the bonding **will not** be done by the State of Alaska and **the people of Alaska will not be paying the bill**. The Alaska Railroad will use its bonding authority to raise the funds and the fees for the use of the dock will pay the bill.

If there are any questions regarding our support or the importance of this project, I would gladly answer them, contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

Joseph C. Tougas
President/Owner

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