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February 16, 2022

The Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of Explore Fairbanks, I am writing to encourage 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, to include Interior Alaska.

The current dock was built in 1966 and must be replaced in order to continue to serve the 200,000 passengers that cross over it every year during their visits to Alaska. Many of these cruise ship passengers make their way up North to Denali National Park and Fairbanks and are vitally important to our summer visitor industry season. The 2016 Alaska Visitor Statistics Program (AVSP) estimated that approximately 41% of Fairbanks summer visitors make their way here by way of the Cross Gulf of Alaska cruise/land tours. These visitors stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, shop at stores, participate in tours and attractions, and make significant contributions to our local economy.

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.

Thank you for your support of this important project, and for your service to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McCrea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott J. McCrea
President and CEO