

Doniece Gott

From: Greg Kuijper <907gregnkate@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 164 - funding for parking lot and facilities for Chugach State Park

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

Chairman Stedman and Bishop, Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on SB – 164. I'm Greg Kuijper, Secretary of the Glen Alps Community Council. I've lived next to Chugach State Park near the Canyon Rd Access for Flattop and Rabbit Lake for nearly 20 years.

We are seeking funding of \$2.6 million for the DNR to build a much needed parking area in Chugach State Park specifically at the Canyon Road Access. For those of you who don't frequent the area, the access points that get the most use in Anchorage are Glen Alps and Canyon Rd.

The Canyon Road access is a narrow dirt road with no drainage, cars parked along both sides of the road including the steep incline, and no place to turnaround. This creates a narrow funnel of traffic for pedestrians, dogs, cars and skiers that extends for almost ½ mile to a gate where the old road now trail to Rabbit Lake continues along the same grade. The parking in this area seemed to get worse each year prior to the pandemic, but now more than ever. In spite of this, Canyon Rd. regularly sees over 200 cars at a time parked alongside. I want to see the DNR work with GARSAs, the Community Councils and the CSP Advisory Board to come up with a parking plan that works for everyone, including the neighbors!

In closing, the time is right to fix this blight on Chugach State Park. Please fund the DNR to construct parking and facilities to Chugach State Park at the end of Canyon Rd. There is a huge need and the payback will be immeasurable for all park users.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Greg Kuijper

Glen Alps Community Council, Secretary/Treasurer

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From: Blythe Marston <blythe.marston@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support NHA Feasibility Study, Anchorage Downtown Library and Alaska Cultural Trust CAPSIS Requests

Dear Finance Committee Member,

I am unable to testify today but nonetheless want to urge you to support three CAPSIS requests: *the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, the Anchorage Downtown Library, and Alaska's Cultural Trust*. All three have one thing in common: they leverage State dollars to bring back to Alaska federal and private dollars to diversify Alaska's economy.

A National Heritage Area brings with it a 15 year stream of federal money that will assist in developing Alaskan stories of national importance. Nation-wide NHA's have brought an impressive 5:1 return locally on the funds invested by the federal government, creating economic diversity and opportunity, thereby strengthening the local economy by advocating tourism and discovery. A \$300,000 investment for the required feasibility study is an investment that can result in a 15 year stream worth millions of federal dollars coming directly to Alaska.

The \$2.5 million requests to retrofit Anchorage's Old City Hall marries a private vision of Anchorage Downtown Library operations with a State capital investment. Thanks to Mrs. Goetz, the Anchorage Library Foundation has \$17 million dollars invested and dedicated to pay the annual operating costs of a Downtown Library for Anchorage. The state, nor the city, nor Anchorage residents need worry about on-going operating expenses for decades. That opportunity alone should make the \$2.5 million investment needed to refurbish a portion of Anchorage's Old City Hall an obvious win-win proposition. Having a library in downtown Anchorage will create downtown a place to check out and return books, access the internet, hold a conference, use a maker's space, and develop a workforce but importantly also a place for visitors to learn more about Anchorage and Alaska, enticing them to stay that extra day. An Anchorage Downtown Library is essential to economic recovery for downtown Anchorage; retrofitting a portion of Old City Hall when the operating costs are already covered is a win-win proposition.

Finally, investing in a Cultural Trust for Alaska is an important step toward diversifying Alaska's economy with culture and the arts. The State investment is intended as seed money in an endowment for private organizations and individual donations to match and exceed. The Alaska State Council on the Arts has already demonstrated an ability to leverage non-governmental funds to augment investment by both the State and Federal Governments. Now is the time to do the same with the private sector. Alaska is the only state with no cultural or artistic trust. Investing in a Cultural Trust for Alaska will make all the difference in assembling the private resources that will create support for arts & culture in perpetuity.

Please add to the Capital Budget \$300,000 for a National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, \$2.5 million for an Anchorage Downtown Library, and \$10 million for Alaska's Cultural Trust.

Thank you,
Blythe Marston

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From: [Dan Kennedy](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Janet C. Kennedy](#); [Dan F. Kennedy](#); [Glenda Ledford](#); [Crystal Nvgard](#); [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Christopher Kurka](#); [Rep. Kevin McCabe](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Jesse Sumner](#); [Robert Yundt Homes](#); [Stu Graham](#); [Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#)
Subject: Wasilla Regional Airport expansion, please - Dan Kennedy's testimony to the Senate Fin. Com. Capital Budget and GO Bonds
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2022 10:08:49 AM

Dear Honorable Alaskan Senators:

Thank you to the Senate finance committee for the support of GO bonds and capital projects.

As CPA in Alaska for over 40 years. Currently, I am an independent economist in the Mat-Su Valley. My testimony is for the capital budget, and specifically, support of expansion for the Wasilla regional airport.

As a former AIDEA board member I know regional economic development. There is huge demand for diversified economic development in the Mat-Su region, the fastest growing area of Alaska. Wasilla regional airport expansion is paramount to the diversified economic development that will happen with such infrastructure investment. The Wasilla regional airport expansion will also help the supply line challenges for Alaska.

One of the smartest private sector leaders in our great State says, "The Mat-Su Borough has several thousands more people than Fairbanks, but no passenger service - that is just absurd!"

Thank you Senators for your hard work in Juneau!

Sincerely,

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