



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

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February 20, 2024

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Shelley Hughes, District M
The Honorable David Wilson, District N
The Honorable Mike Shower, District O
The Honorable DeLena Johnson, District 25
The Honorable Cathy Tilton, District 26

The Honorable David Eastman, District 27
The Honorable Jesse Sumner, District 28
The Honorable George Rauscher, District 29
The Honorable Kevin McCabe, District 30

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We write to you in support of House Joint Resolution (HJR) 19, which champions the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE). PMRE is paramount for advancing economic development and the resilience of our region and the State.

By expanding rail infrastructure, we can significantly reduce transportation costs, enhance air quality, and improve the efficiency of shipping bulk commodities and materials to and from interior Alaska. This will not only bolster our State's logistics network but also stimulate economic growth and job creation across various sectors.

We commend the resolution's emphasis on encouraging the Alaska Railroad to adopt a community-minded approach to future rail expansion. Such an approach is crucial for fostering collaboration between stakeholders, addressing community needs, and maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure projects on local economies and quality of life.

We support HJR 19 and recognize its significance in advancing Alaska's economic vitality, security, and infrastructure resilience. By investing in critical infrastructure like PMRE, we can lay the foundation for a more prosperous and secure future for all Alaskans. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Edna DeVries

Mayor

Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us

Michael Brown

Manager

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cc: Governor Michael J. Dunleavy (via Todd.Smoldon@alaska.gov)
Mr. John Harris

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.