

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

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AND PENSIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203
(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

250 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 2D
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-7277

44539 STERLING HIGHWAY, SUITE 203
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
(907) 262-4220

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

February 22, 2024

Chairman Kevin McCabe
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Vice-Chair Sarah Vance
State Capitol, Room 118
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman McCabe and Vice-Chair Vance:

I write to express my support for House Joint Resolution 19 (HJR 19), which will be considered today by the Alaska House Transportation Committee.

I appreciate HJR 19's call for the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension and the Northern Rail Extension; an increase in defensive capabilities at Fort Greely; a renewed commitment by the Alaska Railroad to a community-minded approach to future rail expansion; and the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.

Those are all key needs for Alaska, and a federal-state partnership that helps draw both public and private investment at every level can help us realize them. The rail extensions urged by this resolution are particularly critical and timely, as we encourage the Alaska Railroad to expand its operations to benefit resource development, the military, and the transportation of people and goods in our state.

I thank you for introducing and considering this important resolution and hope for its strong endorsement from the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

CC: Members of the Alaska House Transportation Committee