

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 22, 2012

3:45 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Donald Olson, Chair  
Senator Thomas Wagoner  
Senator Linda Menard  
Senator Johnny Ellis

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Albert Kookesh

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 131(TRA) AM

"An Act establishing the Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board and relating to a long-range community and public transportation plan; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 225

"An Act creating the endow Alaska grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to encourage community development."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 131

SHORT TITLE: COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORTATION ADV. BOARD

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) MUNOZ

01/28/11	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/28/11	(H)	TRA, FIN
03/15/11	(H)	TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/15/11	(H)	Heard & Held
03/15/11	(H)	MINUTE(TRA)
03/22/11	(H)	TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/22/11	(H)	Moved CSHB 131(TRA) Out of Committee
03/22/11	(H)	MINUTE(TRA)

03/23/11 (H) TRA RPT CS(TRA) 4DP 3NR  
03/23/11 (H) DP: MUNOZ, PETERSEN, GRUENBERG,  
P.WILSON  
03/23/11 (H) NR: JOHNSON, FEIGE, PRUITT  
04/14/11 (H) FIN RPT CS(TRA) 10DP  
04/14/11 (H) DP: GUTTENBERG, T.WILSON, GARA, JOULE,  
NEUMAN, COSTELLO, EDGMON, DOOGAN,  
04/14/11 (H) STOLTZE, THOMAS  
04/14/11 (H) FIN AT 8:30 AM HOUSE FINANCE 519  
04/14/11 (H) Moved CSHB 131(TRA) Out of Committee  
04/14/11 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
04/14/11 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519  
04/14/11 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
01/27/12 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
01/27/12 (H) VERSION: CSHB 131(TRA) AM  
01/30/12 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/30/12 (S) TRA, CRA  
02/09/12 (S) TRA AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205  
02/09/12 (S) Moved CSHB 131(TRA) am Out of  
Committee  
02/09/12 (S) MINUTE(TRA)  
02/10/12 (S) TRA RPT 4DP  
02/10/12 (S) DP: KOOKESH, THOMAS, MENARD, HUGGINS  
02/22/12 (S) FIN REFERRAL ADDED AFTER CRA  
03/22/12 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 225

SHORT TITLE: ESTABLISH ENDOW ALASKA GRANT PROGRAM  
SPONSOR(s): COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

03/14/12 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/14/12 (S) CRA, FIN  
03/22/12 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

**WITNESS REGISTER**

TERRY HARVEY, Staff  
Representative Cathy Munoz  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced HB 131 on behalf of the sponsor.

JEFFERY OTTESEN, Director  
Division of Program Development  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported on HB 131.

ANDRA NATIONS, representing herself  
Wasilla, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 131.

PAT BRANSON, Director  
Kodiak Senior Center  
Kodiak, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 131.

MARIE DARLIN, Coordinator  
Association of American Retired Persons (AARP)  
Juneau, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 131.

DENISE DANIELLO, Executive Director  
Alaska Commission on Aging  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Juneau, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported HB 131.

REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUNOZ  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 131.

SYDNEY SEAY, Staff  
Senator Donald Olson  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced SB 225 on behalf of the CRA  
Committee.

Erin Harrington, Staff  
Representative Allan Austerman  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions regarding SB 225.

SCOTT RUBY, Director  
Division of Community and Regional Affairs  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Anchorage, Alaska  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions related to SB 225.

CANDACE WINKLER, President and CEO  
Alaska Community Foundation

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported SB 225.

DIANE KAPLAN, President

Rasmuson Foundation

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Supported SB 225.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:45:56 PM](#)

**CHAIR DONALD OLSON** called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Wagoner, Ellis and Chair Olson. Senator Menard arrived soon thereafter.

#### **HB 131-COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORTATION ADV. BOARD**

[3:46:21 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced the consideration of HB 131.

[3:46:26 PM](#)

TERRY HARVEY, Staff for Representative Cathy Munoz, Alaska State Legislature, introduced HB 131 speaking to the following sponsor statement:

House Bill 131 creates an Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board, which will assist in the development and procedural recommendations for existing programs of state, federal, and local agencies that provide community-based transportation services. Public and community transportation is integral in connecting communities, supporting development and serving our most vulnerable constituent.

The designation of this board is a recommendation from the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force, which was released in the February 2010 Recommendations Report. The board will continue efforts to address public and community transportation and help fill the gap in transportation for individuals who require more specialized travel - senior citizens, low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, and those who are transit-dependent.

The board will consist of 13 members from departments within state and local governments, Denali Commission, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, nonprofits, and those with expertise in transportation needs for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and transit-dependent individuals. This broad range of membership will facilitate communication and strategies that will benefit communities of all sizes.

HB 131 has support from the Alaska Mobility Coalition, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Commission on Aging, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Brain Injury Network, and the Alaska Suicide Prevention Council.

3:49:44 PM

SENATOR WAGONER questioned the need to load the advisory board with commissioners, other than the commissioner of transportation.

MR. HARVEY said the Governor's task force felt strongly that the departments of transportation, health and social services and labor and workforce development have day-to-day dealings with the 11.4 percent of Alaskans that use coordinated transportation. He pointed out that the bill gives the commissioner the discretion to appoint an appropriate designee to serve on the board.

SENATOR MENARD commented on her advisory board experience, agreed with Senator Wagoner regarding overloading busy commissioners with board appointments, and opined that an 11-member board was more than adequate.

3:54:33 PM

MR. HARVEY explained that the decision to have a 13-member board was based on the challenges of transportation in the state and bringing in a broad range of groups that have a stake in community transportation.

SENATOR MENARD reiterated that smaller boards function better and are more productive.

MR. HARVEY said he appreciated the comments.

SENATOR WAGONER suggested that the board could ask the departments to send an expert to provide input on a particular

agenda item when it was appropriate. He expressed concern about the time away from work and travel costs to attend meetings.

3:58:08 PM

CHAIR OLSON asked if other states have similar transportation advisory boards and if they are successful.

MR. HARVEY answered that many states have this type of advisory board. He deferred to Mr. Ottesen for details.

CHAIR OLSON asked which area of the state the board would primarily serve.

MR. HARVEY answered that there are coordinated transportation operations throughout the state. The idea is that all areas of the state would be represented.

CHAIR OLSON asked how he could access the coordinated transportation system in Ketchikan.

MR. HARVEY answered that Ketchikan has a public bus system, a senior service system, and a disabilities agency that offers transportation.

CHAIR OLSON asked about Kotzebue.

MR. HARVEY offered to follow up with the information.

SENATOR MENARD commented that a 9-member advisory board was sufficient, because the governor makes the decisions based on the advice given.

4:01:23 PM

JEFFERY OTTESEN, Director, Division of Program Development, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), said he served as chair of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force under both Governor Palin and Governor Parnell. He also oversees the National Rural Transit Assistance Program, which is the transit money that goes to communities statewide that are not in the metropolitan planning areas of Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) and Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System (AMATS). That money goes to both scheduled transit service and the tribal, local and nonprofit agencies that provide transit services.

When the federal government realized it was spending money on about 65 transportation programs to serve different subgroups of

citizens, President Bush signed an executive order that encouraged coordination at the federal level. It continues to be a federal priority. Many other states have established permanent commissions. He offered to follow up with exact numbers.

MR. OTTESEN said that the task force identified about \$80 million, primarily from DOLWD, DHSS, and DOTPF, which was probably the reason that the sponsor included those three departments on the advisory board. He relayed that he had little trouble pushing coordination within DOTPF, but it was more challenging to coordinate across "silos" or departments and among the various recipients of the federal dollars. It can be tough for someone who can't drive and needs medical services in an urban hub, he said. A previous committee heard that someone had to use an ambulance to get to a medical appointment. He noted that that was paid for by some government program. The committee also learned that in Juneau almost two-thirds of the employees at the big box retail stores rely on the bus to get to and from work. The need for public transit is so profound that Fred Meyers aligned its work schedule with the bus schedule. He confirmed the statistic that about one in nine Alaskans need coordinated transportation.

[4:08:31 PM](#)

SENATOR WAGONER commented that he often sees City and Borough of Juneau buses running nearly empty and school buses serve the same area. He asked how much the state pays to transport students and if the bill would do anything to coordinate that effort.

MR. OTTESEN said the task force discussed coordinating with school buses. He explained that until very recently state general fund money wasn't put into scheduled public transit, it was generally paid for with federal and local money. Responding to comments from Senator Wagoner, he said the state receives Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) money and is allowed to use federal highway money as well.

He said the bill is about efficiency through coordination.

SENATOR WAGONER suggested pursuing the idea of having schoolchildren ride public buses.

MR. OTTESEN discussed the program "Safe Routes to School" that is intended to encourage students to walk or bike to school. Sometimes the students have to use a public bus because schools aren't always located in neighborhoods. He noted that DOTPF had

talked to the MatSu Borough about aligning school locations to the program. He commented that placing a school in the wrong location ensures the government will have to pay for bussing for 50 years.

[4:13:46 PM](#)

SENATOR MENARD commented on the challenges of busing students to school. She reiterated her belief that the advisory board was too large and asked if he could suggest efficiencies.

MR. OTTESEN declined. He said the sponsor asked him to discuss the power of coordination.

With regard to cost, he clarified that the board would rely on federal transit money that the state receives annually in the capital budget. The fiscal note technically shows zero because the bill does not change DOTPF's operating budget. If there weren't a board, DOTPF would probably do coordination ad hoc. He reiterated that the department had been trying to coordinate for 12 years.

SENATOR MENARD acknowledged that she was belaboring her objection to the size of the advisory board.

SENATOR WAGONER commented that the legislature should cut DOTPF's operating budget by \$110,000 if there isn't a board since it can support the board with its existing budget.

MR. OTTESEN clarified that it was money from the capital budget. Those funds come annually from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to further coordination. The fiscal note shows no change to the operating budget.

SENATOR WAGONER said it was confusing because the advisory committee was not a capital item.

[4:17:40 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON asked if the state might have to backfill the funding if federal funds were withdrawn in the future.

MR. OTTESEN acknowledged that it was a real risk, but coordination would likely continue to be a priority and FTA money would probably continue to flow to the state. Transit has a growing cast of supporters in Washington D.C.

[4:19:56 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON asked if the department was in favor of the bill.

MR. OTTESEN answered that the department had to remain neutral, but did support coordination. The Federal Transit Administration expects DOTPF to make coordination happen.

SENATOR WAGONER asked if the bill excluded Anchorage and Fairbanks.

MR. OTTESEN clarified that the coordination efforts extend into Anchorage and Fairbanks because it is a statewide expectation, but the money for buses, equipment, or bus stops only goes to the non-urban areas.

SENATOR WAGONER asked if Juneau was eligible for federal transit money

MR. OTTESEN said yes.

SENATOR MENARD asked if the federal money pays for signage.

MR. OTTESEN said yes.

CHAIR OLSON opened public testimony.

4:22:40 PM

ANDRA NATIONS, representing herself, said that as a disability advocate she served on both the 2008 and 2011 task force. That work included performing needs assessments, taking public input, visiting communities statewide to hear about coordination needs, and pinpointing barriers and costs to coordination. The final report outlined the coordinated transportation action plan for surface transportation and proposed strategies for increasing efficiency and effectiveness. The idea was to help the various agencies work together.

MS. NATIONS said the task force also heard from a number of private transportation agencies that have been trying to do effective coordination.

She said the task force identified as a priority an advisory board with commissioners as members, because those state agencies have the authority to work on the barriers that were identified. She said passage of this bill will help implement a coordinated transportation plan that will ensure reliable transportation for all Alaskans.

4:27:08 PM

PAT BRANSON, Director, Kodiak Senior Center (KSC), said KSC operates the Kodiak area coordinated transit system for 17 nonprofits in the community. It has been in operation for more than 10 years under the guidance of the local human service coalition. She said she served on the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force. This was the first time the state transportation needs were assessed and the different funding silos evaluated. She emphasized the efficiency of coordinated systems and noted that cabs are an important component in places like Kotzebue and Kodiak.

MS. BRANSON said one of the most important items that the task force identified was to continue the coordinated transportation work with an advisory board being established. The task force had representatives from many of the agencies that are proposed for the advisory board. The commissioners' designees helped move things along by getting answers quickly from the different funding silos (departments). She said she understands the concern about the size and cost of the board, but it was very valuable having those representatives on the task force.

She encouraged the committee to support the bill.

[4:31:42 PM](#)

MARIE DARLIN, Coordinator, Association of American Retired Persons, stated support for HB 131. She said AARP was aware of the need and the work that had gone into assessing the transportation needs of the state. She reminded the committee that Alaska's senior population was growing and reliable transportation was important to this sector. The advisory board will help effective transportation planning and efficient use of the different funds. She said each area in the state has different needs and offers different services, and transit is more difficult in some areas than others. Juneau has a very good coordinated system, but this is not common in other areas. She emphasized the importance of having one group look at the needs and various funding sources.

[4:35:32 PM](#)

DENISE DANIELLO, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Aging, Department of Health and Social Services, said the commission believes that transportation is vitally important for seniors. The commission surveys seniors every four years and transportation is always a priority issue because about one in five seniors chooses not to drive. When elder community forums are conducted in locations around the state, transportation comes up as an important issue. Seniors need transportation to

get to doctor appointments, the beauty shop, restaurants, the senior center for lunch, and volunteer locations. They have to get out of the house to participate in community life, but without transportation they're homebound.

She reminded the committee that Alaska has the fastest growing senior population of any state. More than 90,000 residents are age 65 or older, and this age sector is growing faster than any other. Alaskans have diversified needs so it is important to have a body that does broad perspective planning that takes into account all the needs in all locations.

CHAIR OLSON asked the sponsor to comment on the bill.

[4:38:00 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUNOZ, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of HB 131, summarized that through executive order both Governor Palin and Governor Parnell established a coordinated transportation task force. That body recently published a report and identified departments within the state that have access to federal funding for transportation. To maximize the use of those federal dollars, it is very important to have those voices to work together to identify the gaps in service and how coordination can prevent duplication.

CHAIR OLSON asked if anyone opposed the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE MUNOZ answered that she wasn't aware of any opposition.

CHAIR OLSON asked what the long-term plans were for financing.

REPRESENTATIVE MUNOZ answered that the bill had a 2016 sunset and it was intended to maximize federal dollars.

CHAIR OLSON commented that coordination made sense.

[CHAIR OLSON held HB 131 in committee.]

#### **SB 225-ESTABLISH ENDOW ALASKA GRANT PROGRAM**

[4:40:37 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced the consideration of SB 225, "An Act creating the endow Alaska grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to encourage community development."

[4:41:08 PM](#)

SYDNEY SEAY, Staff to Senator Olson, Alaska State Legislature, introduced SB 225 stating the following:

Endow Alaska sets up a challenge grant or matching fund mechanism that allows local community foundations throughout Alaska to leverage private donations from within their communities by matching donor's contributions dollar for dollar with state funds.

By providing this tool to help grow the endowed assets of community foundations, the Endow Alaska program addresses several objectives. It supports community self-sufficiency. It recognizes the ability of community members to identify and respond to local needs. It creates an additional catalyst for community conversations about philanthropy and the power of Alaskans to invest in meaningful local projects and visions. It also creates an opportunity to take today's state dollars, which result from the development of a finite nonrenewable resource, and turn them into a financial tool that can yield perpetual returns, potentially supporting local projects and investments for centuries to come.

Endow Alaska is inspired by a program that was originally put in place in Iowa. Endow Iowa has since been established in Kentucky as well. The legislation envisions a relationship between the state and a lead philanthropic entity - a statewide organization that receives an annual lump-sum grant and then turns around and provides numerous challenge grants to local community foundations or community affiliate [organizations].

Presently in Alaska the organization most likely to qualify as the lead philanthropic entity would be the Alaska Community Foundation. [It is] a statewide community foundation with more than 250 funds in management and assets of more than \$47 million, a nonprofit public charity promoting personal philanthropy and providing financial management, strategic development, and donor development services to communities, organizations, and donors across Alaska. The program is simple, but the impacts are potentially profound.

The bill provides some funding limitations to ensure that community investments are made in diverse regions of the state. However, because this is a matching or challenge grant program, the scope of the fund is necessarily limited by the capacity of donors in Alaska's communities.

[4:44:13 PM](#)

MS. SEAY provided the following sectional analysis of SB 225.

Sec. 44.33.150 establishes the Endow Alaska Grand program in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). It gives DCCED the power to grant state funds to the "lead philanthropic entity" in Alaska, to be further granted to community foundations and community affiliate organizations to build their permanent endowed funds.

Sec. 44.33.160 describes the requirements for an organization to be qualified as a "lead philanthropic entity" or a "community foundation" under this program.

Sec. 44.33.170 describes factors that the lead philanthropic entity should consider when considering applications for funding; and describes the community foundations and community affiliate organizations that are eligible to receive funding.

Sec. 44.33.80 sets limits on the size and distribution of Endow Alaska grants, and describes the allowable administrative fees for the program.

Sec. 44.33.190 provides statutory definitions.

CHAIR OLSON asked if limiting the individual grants to \$25,000 would present a problem.

MS. SEAY deferred the question to Ms. Harrington.

[4:47:12 PM](#)

Erin Harrington, Staff for Representative Austerman, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of the companion bill HB 290, said the program will be limited every year to the amount that the legislature decides to appropriate. However, these are challenge grants, meaning that the community has to raise the entire amount before it will receive the match. Thus, the real limit on

the program is the capacity of individual communities to do significant fundraising in any given year.

CHAIR OLSON asked for an example of what these grants should fund.

MS. HARRINGTON explained that the legislature would make an annual appropriation to the lead philanthropic entity, which would then offer challenge grants to local community foundations. Local community foundations can use the funds solely to build their endowed permanent funds. She noted that was on page 1, lines 11-13. Those community foundations can decide on the distribution of those funds, according to their spending policies. This provides local control and local assessment of priorities, which is appropriate for a permanently endowed fund. The local community foundation may decide there are child and family needs one year and food assistance another year. Local control allows that flexibility.

CHAIR OLSON opened public testimony.

[4:50:06 PM](#)

SCOTT RUBY, Director, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA), Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), said that under SB 225 the division would be charged with administering a grant to a philanthropic agency.

CHAIR OLSON asked if he was aware of any similar programs that were or were not successful.

MR. RUBY answered that he was not aware of any that involved the Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

[4:51:01 PM](#)

CANDACE WINKLER, President and CEO, Alaska Community Foundation (ACF), testified in support of SB 225. She stated the following:

The endow Alaska grant program is a pragmatic way to incentivize and grow individual philanthropy and invest in Alaska's future. Alaskans understand the value of endowment, as we are all familiar with the permanent fund as part of our life, and we recognize the importance of local control and guidance. Many of us in the nonprofit and development world know that Alaska has very low levels of individual giving, and the concepts behind this bill that utilize state resources to maximize and grow private dollars will

help build a culture of philanthropy far beyond just the dollars that it raises.

To give a bit of context to the bill and the work of the community foundations, I want to tell you about the Alaska Community Foundation. We are 17 years old. We hold \$55 million in assets and annually we are granting out between \$5-6 million per year throughout the state of Alaska. Together, over the past 17 years we have granted about \$30 million throughout the state. We currently have 280 different funds, including the Alaska Children's Trust. We also have five regional affiliates in Seward, Petersburg, Kenai, Talkeetna, and Haines. We also have three partner community foundations - the Homer Community Foundation, the Juneau Community Foundation, and the Arctic Slope Community Foundation. These are standalone nonprofits, but they have permanent endowments that the Alaska Community Foundation holds, in addition to the endowments they hold locally. We are also more loosely affiliated with the Chugiak Eagle River Foundation, the Bethel Community Services Foundation, and the North Star Community Foundation.

We also have at the Alaska Community Foundation, experience in managing these kind of matching programs. We have worked in partnership for the past four years with the Rasmuson Foundation on a project called the Community Asset Building Initiative where we have matched about \$1 million in local funds to these community affiliates and community foundations. It's been a proven and effective method for raising local funds. In the past four years, collectively they have raised \$4 million for their endowments.

MS. WINKLER said the Alaska Community Foundation generally supports SB 225, in particular the requirement for those local foundations to meet best practice standards. With regard to the five percent cap on administrative fees [Sec. 44.33.180(a)(2)], she said it was difficult to know whether that was appropriate since there was no appropriation for the bill.

[4:56:26 PM](#)

DIANE KAPLAN, President, Rasmuson Foundation, said this is a statewide, Anchorage-based family foundation that has been in business since 1955. She confirmed that the Rasmuson Foundation has been in partnership with the Alaska Community Foundation for

the past four years to do a similar program. The Rasmuson Foundation committed over \$1 million to match funds for local community foundations.

She said the Rasmuson Foundation believes this is important because history shows that for the last 150 years or so the wealth that individuals have made in Alaska has not stayed in the state. For example, J.P. Morgan and Samuel Guggenheim made a lot of money from the Kennecott copper mine, but there is no legacy to demonstrate that those men ever did business in Alaska. However, New York City has the Guggenheim Museum and the J.P. Morgan Library. That is where the wealth from the copper ended up, not in Alaska.

MS. KAPLAN said the idea of community foundations is to provide a vehicle for Alaskans to give back to their community. She noted that a longtime resident recently left \$2 million to the Seward Community Foundation. Without the foundation, those funds would not have been able to benefit the community of Seward for time to come.

MS. KAPLAN highlighted that the Rasmuson Foundation just committed another \$2 million to continue its work around the state and hopes that more communities will participate. She noted that the communities of Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Sitka, Cordova, Kodiak, and Valdez have expressed interest in giving their citizens an opportunity to help endow these communities over the long term.

CHAIR OLSON asked Ms. Seay if she had any closing comments.

MS. SEAY stated that the program was good and the impacts were potentially profound.

[5:00:00 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON held SB 225 in committee.

[5:00:09 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Olson adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m.