



September 18, 2019

Honorable Governor Dunleavy  
P.O. Box 11001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Subject: **Governor's Advisory Boards –  
Aviation, Marine Transportation, Roads and Highways**

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce appreciates the wisdom of the current and past administrations in the establishment and use of transportation Advisory Boards as a mechanism for dialogue with key infrastructure stakeholders. At this time of budgetary constraint we would like to reiterate our solid support of these boards as a valuable tool to assist in addressing the significant financial challenges faced by the State of Alaska.

We recognize the value in 'leaving no stone unturned' as Alaska's administrative structure is reexamined and new filters are applied to determine the best balance between cost and benefit, and therefore want to convey our concern that these boards may be significantly restructured or eliminated. The composition of these boards, with specific representational seats held by volunteers who meet on a defined schedule, ensures unique, professional and qualified voices are heard from individuals who have boots-on-the-ground experience in areas at the very core of state structure, all at minimum cost. The infrastructure pertinent to these boards represents many things to our state. First and foremost it is a significant financial investment - past, present and future. That investment of dollars provides economic drivers in the act of investing, while also paving the way to opportunity for not just a thriving economy, but potential expansion of that economy. And finally, having made the investment, there is a cost of operating and maintaining infrastructure.

The mix of these three factors in a state as geographically expansive and sparsely populated as Alaska represents a great and complex challenge. As Administrations change and evolve, an administrative structure that includes these three advisory boards provides access to a flow of institutional knowledge that is crucial to making the best possible decisions in these fragile times. As in so many areas, Alaska's transportation system is unique. Our roadways are both expansive and limited, covering hundreds of miles while accessing a remarkably small part of the state and a limited number of communities. Our

## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

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Alaska Airlines  
Denali State Bank  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, TVC Orthopedics &  
Sportsmedicine  
Lockheed Martin  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Vivlamore Companies

### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
ConocoPhillips  
Doyon, Limited  
Fred Meyer Stores  
GCI  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Kinross Fort Knox Mine  
MAC Federal Credit Union

### GOLD

Alaska Executive Search  
BP Exploration  
Carlson Center  
Design Alaska  
Doyon Utilities LLC  
First National Bank Alaska  
Matson Alaska  
Northern Star Pogo LLC  
Ravn Alaska  
TOTE Maritime Alaska  
Usibelli Coal Mine  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

### SILVER

Ahna Incorporated  
Alaska USA  
Alaska Railroad  
AT&T  
Crowley Fuels Alaska  
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK  
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix  
ExxonMobil  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
HUB International  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
LifeMed Alaska  
Lynden  
McDonald's of Fairbanks  
Northrim Bank  
Personnel Plus  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
Sourdough Fuel  
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union  
TDL Staffing  
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project  
Trilogy Metals  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Verizon Wireless  
Yukon Title Company



marine highway supplements the road system, while also connecting Alaska to the Outside and providing a means to move not just people but goods. Our aviation network is a crucial inter- and intra-state link of utmost importance, providing a web of connectivity between the world and areas of the state not covered by one of the other modes.

We encourage you to continue to engage with the Advisory Boards, preserving their structure, and, as requested in our March 22, 2019 letter, we encourage you to pursue permanently establishing the Roads and Highways Board in State Statute similar to the Aviation Advisory Board (AS 4.42.200) and Marine Transportation Advisory Board (AS 19.65.110). The addition of the Roads and Highways Advisory Board would ensure that the full scope of transportation to and within Alaska is represented as a sound, well-informed voice, and rounds out the ability of the Administration to interact with and benefit from regular engagement with recognized stakeholders.

As also previously addressed, the Fairbanks Chamber supports the efforts of Commissioner MacKinnon to create a periodic ad hoc transportation “multi-modal board” comprised of members from each of the above boards to facilitate communication across all transportation modes as the State of Alaska works to resolve its budget challenges. Additionally, we want to clearly express that eliminating the three mode focused boards in lieu of one ad hoc board would not be in the best interest of the State, as it would limit not only the diversity of opinion and experience, but also the depth of knowledge currently represented.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Thank you in advance for considering our request, and feel free to reach out to us with any questions. We look forward to working with your Administration and providing input on transportation and infrastructure issues in the Fairbanks area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Dean".

Rebecca Dean  
Board Chair

Copy: Commissioner John MacKinnon  
Alaska Legislature  
Robert Venables, Chair, Marine Transportation Advisory Board  
Lee Ryan, Chairman, Aviation Advisory Board