



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 15, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC. 20590

RE: Support for State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' Application [GRANT14083981].

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC), I write to express our strong support for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) in receiving the FY2024 Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for Alaska Highway Restoration to Address Thawing Permafrost in Yukon, Canada [GRANT14083981]. It is our understanding that this application was recently submitted to your department.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's diverse industry membership spans the entirety of the state and utilizes and relies on Alaska's Highway system to connect vast regions of responsible resource development to support local communities and provide jobs and important economic benefits to the state of Alaska.

The Alaska Highway remains the only all-season overland road connecting Alaska with the rest of the North American highway network, enabling commercial, residential, and recreational access to Alaska. The DOT&PF's RAISE grant project will focus on restoring segments of the Alaska Highway that have been severely degraded from the thawing of the ice-rich permafrost under the highway to the point of impacting drivability and safety. If funded, the capital project would start immediately, with construction occurring over the next five years with delivery by the Government of Yukon.

This project is vital to the interstate commerce required by RDC's membership and represents a strong international partnership between the Alaska State Government and the Government of Yukon to help strengthen the well-being and quality of life in the North. Thank you for your positive consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



TOURISM



FISHERIES



OIL & GAS



MINING



FORESTRY

1



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Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director

CC:
Governor Mike Dunleavy
Alaska DOT&PF Commissioner Ryan Anderson
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan
U.S. Representative Mary Peltola



TOURISM



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2