



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

August 23, 2024

Submitted electronically to: [comments@westsuaccess.com](mailto:comments@westsuaccess.com)

Commissioner Ryan Anderson  
State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
582 E. 36th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: West Su Access Project Scoping Comments

Dear Commissioner Anderson:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) submits the following comments to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) regarding the West Susitna Access Road (West Su Access) project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment scoping process. RDC supports the West Su Access Project (the Project), which will provide critical infrastructure to connect existing road systems, provide opportunities for responsible development of natural resources, and create new opportunities for recreation and tourism.

Established in 1975, the RDC is a statewide, member-driven business association comprised of individuals and companies representing Alaska's fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Access, including road access, remains a significant hurdle to the ability to responsibly developing many of Alaska's vast natural resources. At a time when reliable sources of low-cost energy in Southcentral Alaska is a front-of-center issue for Alaska's largest population center, this Project is also an opportunity to alleviate those issues in the future. RDC encourages DOT&PF to consider scoping a plan for the Project that will support *all* public users once the proposed 22-mile access road is constructed. This includes public access for recreation and tourism, commercial, and



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industrial access for future development of the region. This Project provides new economic growth and opportunity for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, nearby communities, and for the State of Alaska. More broadly, this project aligns with Alaska's need for enhanced infrastructure and increased access to resource-rich lands to diversify and grow Alaska's economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell  
Executive Director



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