



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

October 13, 2026

Colonel Victor Trujillo II
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Submitted electronically to WestSusitnaAccess78@usace.army.mil - Project Number POA-2022-00165

Re: Comments in Support of the West Susitna Access Project

Dear Colonel Trujillo II,

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) submits these comments in support of the West Susitna Access Project and urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advance this application through a thorough and timely review.

RDC is an Alaskan statewide, non-profit professional trade association founded in 1975. Our diverse 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 purpose is to advocate on behalf of these industries and encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The proposed West Susitna Access Project will result in a two-lane gravel road constructed over 78.5 miles from the west side of the Susitna River to Whiskey-Bravo Airstrip at the southern base of the Alaska Range. This project would connect the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's existing transportation network to the resource-rich Yentna Mining District and other undeveloped areas west of the Susitna River. Once completed, the road is expected to provide safe, year-round public access for recreational, residential, commercial, and industrial users.

Improved access to Alaska's mineral and energy resources is important to strengthening domestic supply chains and national security. As demand for critical minerals continues to grow, Alaska has an opportunity to contribute significantly to domestic production. However, realizing that potential requires infrastructure that allows companies to evaluate and responsibly develop these resources.



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RDC supports investments in transportation infrastructure that improve public access and create new opportunities for economic development. Much of Alaska's resource potential remains difficult to access due to limited infrastructure and the high cost of operating in remote areas. The West Susitna Access Project would help address these challenges by connecting an area with significant resource potential to the existing road system, improving opportunities for exploration, private investment, and future development.

RDC recognizes the importance of evaluating environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures through the permitting process. We encourage the Corps to conduct a fair, timely, and predictable review that considers both the potential environmental impacts and the substantial public and economic benefits of improved access. Projects that meet applicable environmental requirements should have a reasonable opportunity to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of RDC's position.

Sincerely,

Connor Hajdukovich
Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska



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