



January 25, 2018

Mr. Timothy LaMarr, Field Office Manager via email: blm_ak_akso_amblerroad_comments@blm.gov
BLM Central Yukon Field Office
222 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Re: EIS for the Proposed Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road

Dear Mr. LaMarr,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) submits the following as public comment in response to the Bureau of Land Management's development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to evaluate whether to grant a right-of-way for the Ambler Road across BLM managed lands.

The GFCC supports responsible development of Alaska's natural resources to ensure a strong and diversified economy. The GFCC also supports AIDEA's mission to encourage economic growth and increase job opportunities through projects such as the Ambler Access Road. In pursuing these objectives, and recognizing the unique authority provided for this project through ANILCA, the GFCC supports BLM's current EIS process. The Ambler Mining District contains enormous economic potential for the economy of both the Interior and the State of Alaska. The GFCC believes in a robust public process for the development of access to resources, and respects efforts to balance environmental concerns with the need to grow the economy.

We support the continued efforts of BLM, AIDEA, the National Park Service and other stakeholders in their efforts to advance the Ambler Road project through the public process. In the immediate instance we appreciate the extension of the public comment period to promote an expanded EIS process that is both thorough and transparent in its involvement with all stakeholders. Comprehensive outreach that includes methodical and in-depth compilation of stakeholder priorities and concerns will facilitate an exhaustive EIS process that adequately vets and addresses the issues raised, and will result in a comprehensive outcome that allows the project to be appropriately weighed on its merits.

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

DIAMOND

- Alaska Airlines
ExxonMobil
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Lockheed Martin
Mt. McKinley Bank
Ravn Alaska
Vivlamore Companies

PLATINUM

- Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
ConocoPhillips
Denali State Bank
Doyon, Limited
Fred Meyer Stores
GCI
Golden Heart Utilities
Kinross Fort Knox Mine

GOLD

- Alaska Communications
BP Exploration
Carlson Center
Design Alaska
Doyon Utilities LLC
First National Bank Alaska
MAC Federal Credit Union
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC
TOTE Maritime Alaska
Usibelli Coal Mine
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

SILVER

- Alaska USA
Alaska Railroad
Caelus Energy Alaska
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks Natural Gas
Flowline Alaska
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge
Golden Valley Electric Association
Hale & Associates, Inc.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC
JL Properties, Inc.
Key Bank
Lynden
Matson Alaska
Northrim Bank
Personnel Plus
Sam's Club
Seekins Ford Lincoln
Sourdough Fuel
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union
State Farm Insurance:
-Tammy Randolph, Agent
-Ed Randolph, Agent
Tanana Valley Clinic
TDL Staffing
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Verizon Wireless
Yukon Title Company

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It is important that there be careful consideration of cultural concerns, and that access alternatives should not be omitted, but rather thoroughly investigated and addressed. The input from all area stakeholders impacted by the access route should be solicited and considered, including those with distal connectivity to the route.

Additionally, we encourage the US Government to assist with reconciling the timeline conflicts that need to be addressed between ANILCA and the public processes being pursued by BLM as the lead federal agency.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 750 businesses throughout Interior Alaska. The success of our members is directly linked to their ability to do business in an environment that has the necessary infrastructure to support and promote economic development.

Sincerely,



Marisa Sharrah
President & CEO



Tiffany Van Horn
Board Chair