



August 11, 2017

Elisabeth Dabney & Frank Williams  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
803 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Ms. Dabney and Mr. Williams,

RE: Transfer of Federal land to the State of Alaska near Fox, Alaska

The Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce would like to share our perspective with regards to a land management decision that is important to the Fairbanks economy.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern Interior Field Office has determined that 709 acres of a federal land withdrawal administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) near Fox, Alaska, is suitable for return to the public domain after completing an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. As part of that assessment, the office issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the FONSI by the BLM.

If relinquished by the federal government and selected by the State, this land would be best managed by the State of Alaska so it can be used for the highest and best use for Alaskans. It is our understanding that the Northern Alaska Environmental Center has submitted comments during the public comment period opposing this land transfer, citing concerns about the potential resource development activities that could then be permitted by the State. While the ultimate use of these lands would be subject to State laws and public processes, if they were to be leased to Kinross Fort Knox, we believe it would be a good thing for Fairbanks and Alaska, given the mine's track record of successfully managing safety and environmental issues, while providing real value to the community in terms of jobs, tax base and economic activity.

Alaska has a robust permitting process that has demonstrated success at requiring appropriate environmental stewardship at Alaska's large existing mines. The Fairbanks Chamber advocates for development and balanced management of Alaska's resources as well as supporting state and federal regulatory and permitting laws. We believe that the record demonstrates that your potential concerns could be reasonably addressed and mitigated. We are concerned that opposition to the BLM proposed decision could jeopardize the ability of our state to have our natural resources developed, by a company like Kinross Fort Knox which has a demonstrated commitment to our community and the environment.

We respectfully ask that NAEC reconsider their opposition to this transfer. Instead, we ask that you support responsible resource development which benefits our state and our economy.

Sincerely,

Marisa Sharrah  
President & CEO  
Fairbanks Chamber

Garry Hutchison  
Board Chair  
Fairbanks Chamber

**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
- 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