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October 25, 2019

Mr. Timothy La Marr, Field Office Manager
BLM Central Yukon Field Office
222 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Submitted electronically

Subject: Proposed Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2016-008-EIS

Dear Mr. LaMarr,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) supports selection of a build alternative for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road that will provide economically feasible access to the Ambler Mining District while minimizing environmental impacts. Of the build alternatives presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, these goals are best served by option A or B, in order of preference.

The GFCC supports responsible development of Alaska's natural resources to ensure a strong and diversified economy. Many Fairbanks-based companies provide and/or manufacture critical supplies for projects such as this. The local transportation industry is at the ready to provide the transportation needs to support further development. Our unions are training the talent and looking for employment for their members. Our region stands ready to work on projects such as the Ambler Road and the subsequent mining development, which will translate into significant economic opportunities for both the Interior and the whole state of Alaska.

State mining royalties and taxes help to support the State General Fund and grow the Alaska economy. At a time when essential state services are facing dramatic cuts, mining provides an opportunity to generate state revenue while also boosting the economy. In 2018, for example, the mining industry in Alaska contributed over \$148 million to the state and \$34 million to municipalities in the form of license taxes, rents, royalties, corporate income tax, material sales, and taxes paid to municipalities.

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, as an EIS process that is both thorough and transparent in



its involvement with all stakeholders is crucial to the long term success of a build alternative for this project.

To this end, as the EIS is finalized, we encourage BLM and AIDEA to use the EIS process to encourage an open dialogue with Doyon Limited as land owners along the proposed route to comprehensively identify and analyze appropriate concerns. Doyon has clearly identified concerns important to area and cultural stakeholders and is interested in working together on resolution of some of the project challenges and helping clear the path to selection of a build alternative.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 650 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Dean".

Rebecca Dean
Board Chair

Cc:

The Honorable David Bernhardt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of the State of Alaska
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States House of Representatives