



# Interior Alaska – The “Place” To Do Business

Introduced by: Karl Gohlke, Chair, GFCC Transportation Committee  
Date Introduced: October 26, 2009  
Date Passed: November 9, 2009  
Date Transmitted: November 10, 2009

## Resolution 09-1109 A Resolution Supporting the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension

WHEREAS, natural resource development is vital to the economies of the Interior, the Mat-Su Borough, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie, with vast industrial development land (8,940 acres) and deep draft dock, is presently handling and processing bulk resource commodities; and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie is strategically located and has the real estate to stage bulk resources for export; and

WHEREAS, Port MacKenzie can handle Panamax and Cape-size vessels and the Port does not require annual dredging; and

WHEREAS, the distance to tidewater at Port MacKenzie from Interior Alaska offers lower transportation costs and the Port MacKenzie rail extension will stimulate the use and export of coal and other minerals from the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the shipment of coal, limestone, sand and gravel, timber, and metallic minerals on the Port MacKenzie rail extension would generate up to \$7.8 million in annual rail revenue and \$115.7 million in state corporate income taxes during the first 10 years of operation; and

WHEREAS, the rail extension will eliminate congestion from shipping high-volume export materials on the southern rail end from Wasilla to Anchorage, and will eliminate the need for more costly upgrades to the rail system south of Big Lake; and

WHEREAS, off-loading, staging, and rail transportation of north-bound materials for construction of an Alaskan gas pipeline and other large industrial/energy/military projects from Port MacKenzie would be less costly than rail shipment from Anchorage or Seward or by highway; and

WHEREAS, this economic activity would greatly contribute to the Fairbanks, Denali, and Mat-Sue Boroughs’ tax bases and employment; and

### INVESTORS

#### DIAMOND

BP Exploration  
ConocoPhillips  
ExxonMobil  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
FMH & Denali Center  
Flint Hills Resources Alaska

#### PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.  
Carlson Center  
Fred Meyer  
GCI  
Golden Heart Utilities  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

#### GOLD

Alaska USA FCU  
Birchwood Homes  
Denali State Bank  
Design Alaska  
Doyon, Limited  
First National Bank Alaska  
Kinross-Fort Knox Mine  
Laborers Union Local 942  
MAC Federal Credit Union  
The Boeing Co.  
Usibelli Coal Mine

#### SILVER

ACS  
Alaska Airlines  
Alaska Railroad  
AT&T  
Denali – The Alaska Gas Pipeline  
Everts Air Cargo  
Fairbanks Natural Gas  
Flowline Alaska  
Fountainhead Development  
GVEA  
Hale & Associates, Inc.  
JL Properties, Inc.  
Key Bank  
K Janitorial Services, LLC  
Northrim Bank  
Operating Engineers Local 302  
Personnel Plus  
Pogo Mine  
Santina’s Flowers & Gifts  
Spirit of Alaska FCU  
Tanana Valley Clinic  
TDL Professional Staffing  
TOTE  
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.

WHEREAS, this economic activity would not only contribute to the Fairbanks, Denali, and Mat-Su Boroughs' tax bases and employment opportunities, it would have state-wide benefits and should therefore not be funded at the expense of any region; and

WHEREAS, the first two phases of rail extension development, the Environmental Impact Statement and the construction of a bi-modal road/rail loop at the port, are due to be completed during the next six to nine months.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce has long supported the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in their efforts to extend the Alaska Railroad to Port MacKenzie due to its short distance to tide water and great potential to spur major development of natural resources in Interior Alaska.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce requests the Governor and Alaska State Legislature to support all phases of construction and rail extension development by 2013.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to:

Governor Sean Parnell

Randy Ruaro, Deputy Chief of Staff

Joe Balash, Special Assistant

Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Patrick Galvin, Commissioner, Department of Revenue

Leo Von Scheben, Commissioner, Department of Transportation

Karen Rehfeld, Director, Office of Management & Budget

Talis Colberg, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor

Dave Talerico, Denali Borough Mayor

Sen. Gary Stevens, Senate President

Rep. Mike Chenault, House Speaker

Sen. Lesil McGuire, Senate Resources Co-Chair

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, Senate Resources Co-Chair

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Senate Resources Vice-Chair

Sen. Albert Kookesh, Senate Transportation Chair

Sen. Linda Menard, Senate Transportation Vice-Chair

Rep. Peggy Wilson, House Transportation Chair

Rep. Craig Johnson, House Resources Co-Chair and Transportation Vice-Chair

Sen. Bert Stedman, Senate Finance Co-Chair

Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Senate Finance Co-Chair

Rep. Mike Hawker, House Finance Co-Chair

Rep. Bill Stoltze, House Finance Co-Chair

Rep. Mark Neuman, House Resources Co-Chair

Interior Delegation

Alaska State Chamber



Dan Britton  
GFCC Board Chair



Karl Gohlke  
GFCC Transportation Committee Chair