

Introduced by: Denny Schlotfeldt, Chair, GFCC Transportation Committee
Date Introduced: March 17, 2008
Date Passed: April 7, 2008
Date Transmitted: April 8, 2008

RESOLUTION 08-0407

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION

WHEREAS, bulk natural resource development and export 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 lands (8,940 acres) and deep draft dock is ideally situated to handle and process bulk resource commodities, and

WHEREAS, real estate for staging bulk resource commodities is severely limited in all other South Central Alaska ports, and

WHEREAS, Port Mackenzie can handle Panamax and cape size vessels and the port does not require annual dredging, and

WHEREAS, the shorter distance to tide water at Port Mackenzie offers lower transportation costs and will stimulate the use and export of coal and other minerals from the interior, and

WHEREAS, a new rail extension to Port Mackenzie, with its lower cost, would make the Agrium "Kenai Gasification Project" more financially feasible and would benefit the Kenai Peninsula Borough as well as the rest of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Port Mackenzie rail extension with development of coal, limestone, sand & gravel, timber and metallic minerals could generate up to \$7.8 million in annual rail revenue and \$115.7 million in state corporate income taxes during the first ten years of operation, and

WHEREAS, the rail extension will significantly relieve and avoid congestion on the southern rail end, including the Wasilla area, which is critical for high volume export materials, thus eliminating any need for more costly upgrades to the rail system south of Willow, and

WHEREAS, the possibility of rail being included in the proposed Knik Arm crossing connecting to the Port Mackenzie rail extension would significantly reduce the cost of northbound rail transportation, and

Benefactors

DIAMOND

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
BP Exploration
ConocoPhillips
Fairbanks Daily News Miner
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital & Denali Center
Flint Hills Resources Alaska
GCI
Santina's Flowers & Gifts
Wells Fargo

PLATINUM

Alaska Airlines
AT&T Alascom
Golden Heart Utilities
Mt. McKinley Bank
Phone Directories Company
The Carlson Center

GOLD

Alaska Railroad
Alaska USA
Denali State Bank
Design Alaska
Doyon, LTD
First National Bank Alaska
Laborers Union Local 942
Military & Civilian FCU
Northrim Bank
The Boeing Co.
Usibelli Coal Mine

SILVER

ACS
ACS Media
Blue Wire Technologies
ExxonMobil
Fairbanks Building & Construction Trades
Fairbanks Natural Gas
Flowline Alaska
Fred Meyer
GVEA
Key Bank of Alaska
Personnel Plus
Seekins Ford, Lincoln, Mercury
Tanana Valley Clinic
TOTE
UAF

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CHAMBER
 OF COMMERCE

100 Cushman St., Suite 102, Fairbanks, AK 99701
 phone: (907) 452-1105, fax: (907) 456-6968
 e-mail: info@fairbankschamber.org
 website: www.fairbankschamber.org

WHEREAS, offloading, staging and rail transportation of northbound materials for construction of an Alaskan gas pipeline from Port Mackenzie would be less costly, and

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

WHEREAS, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce has long supported the development at Port Mackenzie due to its close distance to tide water and its great potential to spur major development of natural resources in interior Alaska.

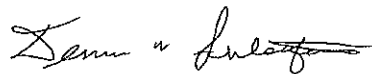
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Matanuska – Susitna Borough in their efforts to extend the Alaska Railroad to Port Mackenzie.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

- Governor Sarah Palin
- Randy Ruaro, Special Assistant for Transportation For Governor Palin
- Joe Balash, Special Assistant for Natural Resources for Governor Palin
- Curt Menard, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor
- Dave Talerico, Denali Borough Mayor
- Sen. Lyda Green, Senate Presiding Officer
- Rep. John Harris, House Presiding Officer
- Sen. Charlie Huggins, Senate Resources Committee Chair
- Rep. Carl Gatto, House Resources Committee Co-Chair
- Rep. Craig Johnson, House Resources Committee Co-Chair
- Sen. Albert Kookesh, Senate Transportation Committee Chair
- Rep. Kyle Johansen, House Transportation Committee Chair
- Interior Delegation
- Alaska State Chamber



Rick Solie
 Board Chair
 Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce



Denny Schlotfeldt
 Chair, Transportation Committee
 Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Benefactors

DIAMOND

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- BP Exploration
- ConocoPhillips
- Fairbanks Daily News Miner
- Fairbanks Memorial Hospital & Denali Center
- Flint Hills Resources Alaska
- GCI
- Santina's Flowers & Gifts
- Wells Fargo

PLATINUM

- Alaska Airlines
- AT&T Alascom
- Golden Heart Utilities
- Mt. McKinley Bank
- Phone Directories Company
- The Carlson Center

GOLD

- Alaska Railroad
- Alaska USA
- Denali State Bank
- Design Alaska
- Doyon, LTD
- First National Bank Alaska
- Laborers Union Local 942
- Military & Civilian FCU
- Northrim Bank
- The Boeing Co.
- Usibelli Coal Mine

SILVER

- ACS
- ACS Media
- Blue Wire Technologies
- ExxonMobil
- Fairbanks Building & Construction Trades
- Fairbanks Natural Gas
- Flowline Alaska
- Fred Meyer
- GVEA
- Key Bank of Alaska
- Personnel Plus
- Seekins Ford, Lincoln, Mercury
- Tanana Valley Clinic
- TOTE
- UAF

"Succeeding Together, Achieving Results"