



December 20, 2023

Stacie McIntosh
Bureau of Land Management Fairbanks District Office
222 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

The Alaska Chamber writes to express support for the Ambler Access Project (AAP) and provide comments on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's most diverse statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, directly representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages. The Chamber has a longstanding policy position to support responsible development of our natural resources and gaining access to those resources.

The Draft SEIS significantly downplays the unemployment numbers in the region and the economic benefits that would be realized should the project go through. In addition, the positive impacts of the project, such as job creation, are not given appropriate consideration. Jobs are crucial for sustaining a subsistence lifestyle and have been definitively linked to increased lifespan and better living standards in rural communities. The future success of Northwest Alaska is relying on this project for jobs and economic opportunities.

The Ambler Draft SEIS must be revised and based on accurate, researched, substantiated information and not speculative content, unfounded assumptions, or unlikely, worst-case scenarios. BLM's draft SEIS should only be evaluating the areas of federal land where BLM has jurisdiction. BLM's decision-making authority is limited regarding the Ambler Access Project. The Draft SEIS must also acknowledge the road can coexist with the environment. The DSEIS expands the ANILCA Section 810 analysis from 27 to 66 communities, some of these communities are hundreds of miles away from the road area being proposed. The focus of the SEIS should remain on the 10 villages closest to the road.

Additionally, the BLM may consider requiring, as a condition of the Right of Way, that BLM agree to obtain Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) landowner affirmative consent to use of any ANC lands needed for the project. As the lead agency, BLM can help facilitate mutually beneficial outcomes between Project proponents and ANC landowners.

The Ambler Access Project (AAP) is a crucial project for the future of Alaska. AAP will provide much-needed jobs and enable the production of critical minerals to reduce our country's dependence on China and other foreign countries. These critical minerals are needed for renewable energy and a green economy.

Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



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