



KNIK TRIBAL COUNCIL

KNIK, THE OLDEST VILLAGE IN COOK INLET

March 10, 2011

Mr. David Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
ATTN: Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35095

Dear Mr. Navecky:

On behalf of the Knik Tribal Council I would like to respectfully submit these comments pertaining to the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Programmatic Agreement, STB Docket NO., 35095. Knik Tribal Council is a federally recognized tribal government and provides services to over 1,500 tribal members and 5,000 Alaskan Native Peoples residing within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Our mission is "to promote successful self-determination and cultural awareness for our members and our community through better living conditions, education, wellness and hard work.

Knik Tribal Council (KTC) is an active participant in this process and we appreciate the opportunity to comment. In preparation of our comments we worked in partnership with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Alaska Railroad Corporation. KTC would like to applaud the efforts of these two entities for their inclusiveness and their willingness to work collaboratively. KTC formally acknowledges and accepts the comments provided by the MSB and ARRC.

In addition of significant importance to the KTC and its ancestors we would also like to emphasize the following points.

- Recognition of the Dena'ina Cultural Landscape – The Dena'ina Athabascan have resided and subsisted in the area for thousands of years. It is imperative that the indigenous peoples of the area are respectfully acknowledged. The Programmatic Agreement is another tool which will help us to protect our cultural integrity and allow for the continued education in an area where urbanization continues to dilute our very existence.
- Section V – Curation; This section should reflect the partnership between the KTC, MSB and ARRC to develop a curation agreement which will determine the facility to house Dena'ina affiliated materials. It is our desire to have the new discoveries placed in a museum located in South Central Alaska, e.g. Anchorage Museum. This desire directly relates to our continued education process and to protecting our cultural history and ancestry.
- Working Group as described in the PA includes the KTC, MSB and ARRC will develop a Memorandum of Understanding upon the development of the preferred Alternative. The MOU

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- will provide details of the working partnership amongst the entities and describe the areas where for planning.

I can be reached at (907) 373-7971 or emailed at rporter@kniktribe.org if you have any questions regarding our comments. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments, I am looking forward to the finalized version of the programmatic agreement for this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Richard Porter
Executive Director