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01/29/2009 02:38 PM

To naveckyd@stb.dot.gov

cc "Fogels, Edmund J (DNR)" <ed.fogels@alaska.gov>, "Ogan, William S (DNR)" <scott.ogan@alaska.gov>, tina.cunning@alaska.gov, atarnai@acsalaska.net,

bcc

Subject Extension of Comment Period STB Finance Docket No. 34658

History:

✉ This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Mr. Navecky- On behalf of the State of Alaska's Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, I am formally requesting a 60 day extension of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska Railroad Corporation Construction and Operation of a Rail Line between North Pole and Delta Junction, Alaska. We believe that the public interest would be served by such an extension. The initial 52 day public comment period does not provide adequate time for the public to review and comment on a proposal of this scale.

We are particularly concerned that the public may not be fully aware of the restrictions on access across any right of way conveyed to the ARR. These restrictions would prevent the public from accessing public lands that are regularly used for hunting, fishing and other activities. Additional time to review this proposal and identify essential access across the right of way is needed.

We urge you to extend the public comment period for an additional 60 days. Additionally, consideration should be given to holding additional public meetings which focus primarily on the access issue. Thank you.

Stan Leaphart
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Citizens' Advisory Commission
on Federal Areas
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