

EI - 18188

2181 Belmont Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
May 10, 2010

Mr. David Navecky
STB Finance Docket No. 35095
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I have just finished reading the Draft EIS for the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project. As an owner of multiple properties in the Valley, I am concerned that the Matanuska Susitna Borough has already made known its preference for an extension through Willow.

According to the EIS, the two routes leading to Willow have the greatest detrimental effects on the environment in almost every category. These routes (Mac West-Con 1-Willow, and Mac East-Con 3-Willow) are the longest and therefore the most expensive. They impact the most locally important soil acreage, they require the greatest number of bridges and culverts, they impact the greatest wildlife habitat acreage, the most cultural resources, they cross the most official trails, state recreation and refuge areas, and the adverse noise impacts the greatest number of acres.

With all of these factors in mind, I would encourage the Surface Transportation Board to select one of the routes that does not go through Willow.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Painter
(907) 258-1127