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2018 Annual Report

Neil MacKinnon
President

First things First Alaska Foundation has been active during 2018 in Juneau and Southeast Alaska to encourage economic and resource development.

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

Juneau Economic Development Plan

Joseph Kahklen
Secretary

FTFAF Reviewed the book *When the Boomers Bail* by Mark Lautman that discusses the need for communities to deal with the worker shortage and the need to create a community inviting to younger workers. The Board made a \$10,000 commitment to begin funding process to be led by Mr. Lautman. Several small pre-organizational meetings have occurred, but this project remains a Board priority in 2019.

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

Directors

Corey Baxter
Richard Burns
Wayne Coogan
Naomi Hobbs
Scott Spickler

Juneau Access and Southeast Transportation Plan

John Sandor
Director Emeritus

FTFAF continues its work to see the Juneau Access Project move forward. While the Governor has chosen the no action option, activities continue to finish the Supplemental EIS and resolve open litigation issues. That process concludes on December 27, 2018. We continued to educate all parties on the increasing cost of living associated with transportation limitations (monopoly) in the region. Multi-mode access via water, air, and land are critical factors communicated to public and private parties in enhancing the quality of life and job opportunities in the region.

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

With funding assistance from the City and Borough of Juneau, FTFAF conducted a survey in Juneau to determine the amount of support for Juneau Access and other transportation modes. The results showed strong support for Juneau Access and a north Douglas crossing. The Board authorized an educational radio campaign sharing the survey results.

FTFAF worked to regain funding for Juneau Access and was successful in getting the funding stolen from the project in 2017 restored in 2018. Governor-Elect Mike Dunleavy took a strong stand supporting Juneau Access and is expected to restart the project.

Roadless Rule

The U.S. Forest Service began discussions of removing or limiting the scope of the

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roadless rule in Alaska. FTFAF provided two letters directly to the Forest Service requesting the Tongass and Chugiak National Forests be exempt from the Roadless Rule. FTFAF also joined with several other organizations in a joint letter to the Forest Service requesting exemption from the Roadless Rule.

Mining Activity

The Board contributed funding to the Alaska Miners Association survey on impact of mining on Alaska and communities where mines are located. FTFAF produced a campaign on radio and in theaters running from July through November reporting on the value of mining in Southeast Alaska. The multi-media campaign was conducted in Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan.

The Board reviewed Ballot Measure 1 titled “Save our Salmon.” The board determined that it would unreasonable inhibit economic development and the use of private property. It joined many other organizations and businesses recommending it be opposed. FTFAF provided an opinion editorial indicating the problems the proposal would cause for the use of private property and difficulty it would cause for any development projects.

FTFAF is part of a group offering changes to Juneau’s Mining Ordinance to eliminate the duplication and closed staff decision-making. FTFAF clarified existing policy for the Juneau assembly so that its true impact on jobs, workers, the city budget, and ancillary activities could be clearly understood. The Assembly made minor changes to the Ordinance, failing to resolve the major problems that were identified.

Gold Rush Days

FTFAF continued its annual participation in Juneau’s Gold Rush Days sponsoring a booth, shared with CPR, displaying many position papers supporting economic development.

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