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To Senators, Representative, Governor's Office, Legislature, Assembly,
Agencies.

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Executive Director

As you know, hundreds of residences in Juneau sustained damage during the 2024-Aug-05 flooding of the Mendenhall River due to glacial release of water from Suicide Basin. Approximately 50 million cubic meters of water were released. This increasingly predictable annual event is now growing in magnitude. Interestingly, the physical damage pales in comparison to the damage on paper. Entire neighborhoods and hundreds of homes have lost their entire value due to being rendered unsalable by the stigma of the annual floods; hundreds of \$ million in equity is now suspended until a solution is provided. Included in the danger area are many lower-income households in apartment complexes and mobile home parks.

We are aware many concepts have been suggested to mitigate the situation; including rock tunneling, trenching the glacier by bombs or lasers, pumping Suicide Basin, siphoning, etc. These suggestions have limited practicality, high costs, permitting difficulties, a need for exclusive nonlocal talent, and insufficient probability of success. Among more pragmatic suggestions were 1) increased revetment along the river and 2) "bypass channels" through meanders in the river. While enhancing channel capacity is laudable, training the river is a daunting challenge. The probability of success is very indeterminate with these suggestions. They will not stop the river from flooding and/or overflowing.

FTFAF has consulted with various experts and determined the solution with the greatest potential for success is to build a levee system around Mendenhall Lake with an outflow control gate. This plan entails increasing the holding volume of the lake to function as a surge basin for the annual glacial water release. The outflow gate would control the river flow rate, thereby avoiding downstream damage. If necessary, the levee system could be expanded to undeveloped territory beyond the lake perimeter.

Advantages of the Levee Plan include: 1) It is low-tech; it can be accomplished with local talent and equipment; 2) the probability of success is very high; 3) work could start immediately if money and regulatory waivers were provided; 4) the material (dirt and rock) is available on site and from a nearby quarry; 5)

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

levees are the common stock and trade of the Corps of Engineers; 6) a local example of a similar levee is the dike trail (road) at the Juneau Airport which was built to create and hold a lake for float planes.

FTFAF believes the levee and gate system of flood control, in concert with proper emergency response procedures, should provide maximum protection of life and property. FTFAF is available to discuss this critically important issue with you further. We are eager to make available all work products and ideas we have to help your offices assist the capital of Alaska in this emergency. We all agree time is of the essence.

Respectfully,

/s/ and /s/

Don Habeger, Executive Director

Frank Bergstrom, President

FIRST THINGS FIRST ALASKA FOUNDATION