

Agency Financial Report (AFR)



Message from the Federal Co-Chair

Message from the Federal Co-Chair

The Denali Commission has chosen to produce an alternative to the consolidated Performance and Accountability Report called an *Agency Financial Report (AFR)*. The Denali Commission has chosen to participate in the FY 2007 pilot pursuant to Circular A-136. We will include our FY 2007 annual performance report and FY 2009 performance plan with our Congressional Budget Justification and will post it on the Commission’s website at www.denali.gov by February 28, 2008. In addition, the Commission will produce a “Highlights” document on the Commission’s website at www.denali.gov by February 28, 2008.

The Commission prides itself on being flexible and innovative and we are happy to participate in the Office of Management and Budget’s alternative PAR reporting process. Through this new reporting format, we look forward to providing information in a new, clear and concise format. Our *Highlights* report will provide a quick and easy overview of the Commission programs and our future goals and objectives.

We have much to share on our progress and program delivery outcomes for Fiscal Year 2007. This past fiscal year, the Commission hired an outside third party evaluator to assess the progress of the Commission over these past nine years. One of the best ways to measure performance is through objective, third-party program evaluations. To that end, the Commission (through the Bureau of Public Debt) retained the McDowell Group last year to conduct an overall independent program evaluation of the Commission.

Major findings conclude that the “Commission has facilitated and funded an impressive number of essential infrastructure projects in rural Alaska. The legacy programs in particular (Energy and Health) have been well-conceived and effective” and the “Commission is widely viewed as an effective and necessary organization.”

Evaluations should also identify areas of concern and I welcome that important feedback. As discussed by McDowell, we must better communicate our processes and policies and develop outcome or impact studies that can give us a “lessons learned” approach to future projects. We must also do a better job following up with various communities who received Commission funding.



**Federal Co-Chair
George J. Canelos**



Message from the Federal Co-Chair (continued)

As reported by McDowell, the Commission has been effective at establishing a substantial quantity of badly needed infrastructure in rural Alaska and is widely regarded as essential for that purpose. To date, Commission-funded projects include:

- ▶ 160 completed energy projects
- ▶ 100 completed health projects
- ▶ 100 other completed infrastructure projects
- ▶ Employment training for more than 2,000 Alaskans

The work of the Denali Commission has resulted in improved access to healthcare for rural Alaskans, greater environmental safeguards around fuel storage, more efficient power generation, and a better-trained workforce than would have been the case in the absence of the Commission.

As reported by McDowell, a wide variety of tribal, non-profit and other service organizations around Alaska are stronger and more effective as a result of receiving Commission grants and partnering with the Commission in carrying out its programs. We will be reporting more on our program performance in our upcoming Annual Performance Report due out in February.

FY08 holds new plans for the Commission to improve our public decision-making process and our internal controls. Building on the successful model of our Health Steering Committee and our Transportation Advisory Committee, we are establishing four additional committees. Three are comprised of citizen experts from across Alaska – the Energy Advisory Committee, Training Advisory Committee, and Economic Development Advisory Committee. Our new Financial Management Advisory Committee also includes expert members from Washington DC. We look forward to engaging all members to improve all of our programs and projects.

Sincerely,



George J. Canelos

Federal Co-Chair

November 15, 2007

