Denali Commission
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Memorandum of Understanding

Strengthening the state and federal partnership

An understanding between the Denali Commission:

And the State of Alaska:

- Office of the Governor
- Department of Administration
- Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
    - Alaska Energy Authority
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education and Early Development
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Department of Fish & Game
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Department of Law
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
    - Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
    - Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- University of Alaska

And the following federal agencies:

- Office of the Federal Coordinator, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture:
    - Rural Development, Alaska Office;
    - Forest Service, Region 10;
    - Farm Service Agency;
    - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce:
    - Economic Development Administration, Western Region;
    - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
    - U.S. Commercial Service, Alaska Export Assistance Center
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Operations Office

· U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Indian Health Service, Alaska Region
· U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Coast Guard, Alaska Region
· U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
· U.S. Department of Interior:
    - Office of the Secretary
    - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Office;
    - Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S Geological Survey and Minerals Management Service
· U.S. Social Security Administration:
· U.S. Department of Transportation:
    - Federal Aviation Administration;
    - Federal Highway Administration;
    - Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division
· U.S. Department of Treasury: Internal Revenue Service

Background:

Transparency and accountability in government requires that agencies strive to coordinate and collaborate together. Failure to do so results in inefficiencies, duplication and an inability to effectively carry out our respective missions.

The Denali Commission's agility, flexibility and track record of innovation depends on our ability to partner, support and collaborate with a wide variety of federal and state agencies. The foundation for this collaboration is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is the third version of the MOU which seeks to improve ongoing collaboration and partnership essential for improving life in rural Alaska.

In 2000, Denali Commission and 16 other state and federal agencies came together in a pledge of coordination through the first MOU document. They were joined by additional agencies in 2003 when 33 agencies signed a revised MOU. These MOU's adopted a work group model focusing on planning, utilities, housing and infrastructure.

Guiding Principles:

- **Sustainable Infrastructure**. Participants of the MOU recognize the importance of funding and developing infrastructure programs and projects that will have a positive, lasting affect in rural Alaska. Parties agree to communicate and coordinate project planning, pre-development, site planning, design and construction processes.

- **Economic Development.** Parties recognize that government can provide opportunities for meaningful private sector development. Parties agree to coordinate activities which can stimulate economic growth.

- **Workforce Development.** Workforce development and having a job is critical to family and community wellbeing. Parties agree to coordinate on programs and policies that promote a skilled rural workforce.

- **Planning and Coordination.** Local participation, to include local funding is essential for successful infrastructure projects. Parties affirm the importance of local planning to identify and prioritize proposed projects, and the need to understand the overall impacts of multiple projects on a community.

- **Communication.** Active communications and sharing of information increases efficiencies and decreases the duplication of services. To the extent allowed by each agencies guidelines, MOU participants will share information as needed for the successful implementation of projects.

- **Involving other partners**. Participants recognize that many other non-profit and community organizations in Alaska are valuable resources for furthering the goals of this MOU. Parties will collaborate and communicate to provide regional planning, program support and partnering opportunities where practicable.

MOU Mechanics:

1. This MOU is effective as each agency signs. This MOU expires September 30, 2011 unless the parties agree to extend the date.
2. Any party to this MOU may withdraw upon 30-day notice to all other participants.
3. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to limit or modify the authority or legal responsibility of any participating agency.
4. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligating document. Any proposed funding endeavor will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

Implementation:

The parties agree to form a new, high-level forum to discuss the most difficult issues that face rural Alaska today, which often prevent federal and state government from working together effectively. This forum will be led by the Federal and State Co-Chairs of the Denali Commission and will be composed of federal agency heads, state commissioners and the Governor's office. The forum will meet twice yearly.

Topics for discussion will emerge from the parties, but can include:

- Discussions of state and federal policies which may compliment or hinder collaboration;
- Understanding the requirements and differences of federal and state funding streams, and budget development processes, and finding opportunities for linkage and synergies;
- Case studies of both successes and failures of coordination impacting rural Alaskan communities;
- How agencies can focus on regional approaches to rural Alaska;
- Presentations by agencies on their priorities, programs, progress, perspectives and ideas for greater coordination, communication and cooperation;
- The need to establish working groups on specific topics that may not be covered by existing state or federal groups;

- Issues threatening the viability of rural Alaska – these are many, and can include adaptations to climate change, unaffordable energy costs, healthcare delivery, public safety, education and rural schools, housing, transportation, regional and local governance, demographic shifts, etc.;
- The affect of school closures on a community, and strategies to promote public education in rural Alaska;
- Strategies for planning and delivering infrastructure in very small communities;
- Learning about best practices and innovative breakthroughs from experts in Alaska, elsewhere in the United States and overseas;
- Topics desired by any member of the forum.

There is no other high-level group in Alaska encompassing the breadth and scope of both federal and state agencies. Through these discussions, we believe leaders will:

- Form important professional relationships that will help cut through bureaucracy;
- Understand the magnitude, impacts and types of other state and federal programs;
- Find opportunities for synergy, reducing or avoiding duplication of effort which will save money and increase the efficiency of service delivery;
- Break down barriers that prevent agencies from working together;
- Create immediate positive changes.

STATE AGENCIES

STATE OF ALASKA/OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	Karen J. Rehfeld Co-Chair PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	Annette Kreitzer, Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Michael Black, Deputy Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY	STEVEN MAGENSON, Executive Director PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS	GARLAND ARMSTRONG DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTION, DOC PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT	Barbara Thompson, Interim Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**	Larry Hartig Commissioner, Alaska Dept. of Env. Consv. PRINTED NAME & TITLE
TW STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME	Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	WILLIAM H HOGAN, ACTING COMMISSIONER PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	Clark Bishop Commissioner Labor + Workforce Development PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW	TALIS J. COLBERG, AG PRINTED NAME & TITLE

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	WALT MONEGAN, Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	Brian C. ANDRELOS Deputy Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION	DANIEL R. Fauske - CEO PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES	Leo von Scheben, Commissioner PRINTED NAME & TITLE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA	PRINTED NAME & TITLE

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FEDERAL AGENCIES

DENALI COMMISSION	George J Cannelos Federal Co-Chair PRINTED NAME & TITLE
OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	Patricia Ophean Ch, Engineering Div PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ALASKA OFFICE	Chad B. Padgett, Acting State Director PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE, REGION 10	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARM SERVICE AGENCY	Chad B. Padgett, State Executive Director PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE	PRINTED NAME & TITLE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, WESTERN REGION	Bernhard Richert, Director, PRINTED NAME & TITLE Alaska Field Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION	Carven A. Scott Chief, Environmental + Scientific Services Division PRINTED NAME & TITLE NOAA/NWS Alaska Region Headquarters
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE, ALASKA EXPORT ASSISTANCE CENTER	PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Marcia L. Combes

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ALASKA OPERATIONS OFFICE

MARCIA COMBES DIRECTOR REGION 10 ALASKA OPERATIONS

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, ALASKA REGION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

A E Brooks

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COAST GUARD, ALASKA REGION

Authur E. Brooks, RADM
Commander, 17th District

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Colleen K Bickford

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Colleen Bickford, State Director

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Hans Neidig

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

HANS NEIDIG. Special Assistant to the Secretary for AK

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, ALASKA OFFICE

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

T.P. Lonnie

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Thomas P. Lonnie STATE DIRECTOR

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Diane A. Jung for Sue Masica

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DIANE A. JUNG, PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM MGR.

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Thomas O. Melius

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Thomas O. Melius, Regional Director

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
ALASKA REGION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

Michael A. Cirillo
Alaskan Regional Administrator

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

PRINTED NAME & TITLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

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