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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

May 23, 2023

ATTN: North Extension Project
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801
RE: SEC support of DSEIS "Alternative D: B Road West Relocation 2"

To Whom It May Concern:

Southeast Conference is the State of Alaska Regional Development Organization for Southeast Alaska and the US Economic Development Administration's (EDA), designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the region. Southeast Conference is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska that is designed to identify regional priorities for economic and community development. One of the critical areas to Rural southeast Alaska is Energy. This project would support many of the energy objectives identified in our 2021-2025 CEDS including promoting beneficial electrification and creating energy systems that provide sustainable, affordable, renewable energy.

Southeast Conference appreciates this public process and scientific due diligence that has gone into identifying the best options to adopt. This has been the case for nearly 40 years and adoption of DSEIS "Alternative D: B Road West Relocation 2" will potentially allow the local, regional, state and national benefits this project projects to continue for another 40 years. Hecla continues to be a good corporate partner who shares the Southeast Conference mission of supporting activities that promote healthy communities, a strong economy and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

We urge you to adopt DSEIS Alternative D: B Road West Relocation 2, and thank you for the opportunity to provide support these activities that are consistent with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

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Robert Venables
Executive Director

