

Senator Peter A. Micciche
Alaska State Legislature

Session Address:

Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 504
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2828
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



Interim Address:

145 Main Street Loop, Ste. 226
Kenai, Alaska 99611-7771
Phone: (907) 283-7996
Fax: (907) 283-8127

Governor Mike Dunleavy
550 West 7th Avenue
Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

December 17, 2020

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Governor Dunleavy,

I want to begin by thanking you for your service. I know that at times tough issues seem to hit simultaneously and your administration has certainly experienced a perfect storm of difficulties. Along the way, your priority for public safety has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for the work of you and your administration to steer us through this storm. My analogy including the word “storm” is not by chance in this letter.

I do not ask much for my constituents during this difficult fiscal segment in Alaska history. However, in this case, Governor, we need your help. Since the announcement in September of 2019 of the closing of the Silvertip Station, I have engaged directly with you, your administration and the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) on the raw reality of that decision and the negative impact to public safety on the Kenai. You have personally been sympathetic, but the department has not been responsive. This issue has reached a fever pitch on the Kenai during a very difficult winter on the Seward and Sterling Highways.

You recently received a letter outlining many of the issues and signed by 2,000+ Alaskans from 55 communities and 193 businesses and organizations. I have many personal stories to share from truckers, first responders and families about what they have been through this year on the highway. I met with a highway stakeholder safety group yesterday and have been meeting with many adversely effected constituents over the past weeks.

I can write about the truckers that have had to abort their trips midstream because of the conditions, terrible accidents, families missing medical appointments, businesses on the Kenai awaiting deliveries as we experience bare shelves, but I would rather make this more personal. Families like mine load the most precious of cargo (in my case my wife and our four girls) into

our vehicles to travel our lifelines of the Seward and Sterling Highways and now have to worry about what safety challenges we will find along the way. In my forty years of travel on that route, I can't remember conditions like we have experienced lately.

Trust me, I understand the challenges of your position at this point in time. However, I am also aware of your priority for public safety. Highway safety is public safety and one service that Alaskans simply cannot do without on our key highway corridors.

Governor Dunleavy, I want to make this short and sweet. Alaskans from Anchorage through the communities of the Kenai Peninsula need your help. For those families and businesses struggling to survive through the pandemic, I have a relatively simple ask. Please respond that you will overrule the ADOT and demand that they reopen the Silvertip Station with staffing for an adequate level of highway maintenance for the remainder of the winter of 2020/21. I will support the increase to the supplemental budget and work tirelessly for support with my legislative colleagues. Although we will work together on a longer-term solution, this immediate solution is imperative.

Governor, these are tough times, but I know you to be a good family man (who is also blessed with many daughters). I know you can relate to what would be the most important holiday blessing my constituents could receive that is within your power to deliver. That blessing would be safe transit for families and commerce on the Seward and Sterling Highways. We need your help Sir, and we need it today.

I wish you and your beautiful family the best this holiday season and look forward to your timely response!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Micciche", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Peter Micciche

Cc: Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff