

February 07, 2007

Governor Sarah Palin
Office of the Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Governor Palin,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has adopted a position of support for the Gravina Access project. I am including a copy of the position statement with this letter for your reference. The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce urges the State of Alaska to begin work on this important economic development project.

The Gravina Access project will connect Revillagigedo (Revilla) Island to Gravina Island in Ketchikan. It will provide a roadway link from Ketchikan to Gravina Island across the two channels of Tongass Narrows, an active waterway used by boating that ranges in size from recreational craft to ocean-going vessels such as large cruise ships. Pennock Island in the Narrows will then be accessible.

There has been strong interest in building a bridge to access Gravina Island for some time, not only to access the airport, but also to develop the vast land holdings of the borough. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, which is the planning authority for the project area, has conducted or supported several studies in past years that characterize the availability and accessibility of developable land. More than a dozen studies and plans supported by the borough have been conducted, all detailing problems with land use and accessibility.

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce support development of access to Gravina Island and wishes to encourage your administration to continue the processes underway to accomplish this project.

Yours in economic prosperity,

Wayne A. Stevens
President/CEO

cc: Senator Bert Stedman
Rep. Kyle Johansen