

Sponsored By: Assemblymember Mayfield  
Adopted: 03/05/19

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-025**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO THE ALASKA STATE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SNOWTRAC) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 VIA THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PROCESS OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE MEANS.

---

WHEREAS, in the fiscal year 2020 budget, the Governor declined to fund SNOWTRAC related programs for the state of Alaska, in the amount of \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council was established under Title 41 through the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), with the mission to fairly represent all Alaskans by advising DPOR on snowmobile issues including funding, safety, registration, education, access, trail grooming, marking, development, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, A.S. 28.39.020, authorizes the Alaska State Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles to collect snowmobile and off-highway vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, The SNOWTRAC Program is one of very few revenue neutral, self-funded, user based, programs in the state of Alaska with all funding being derived from the registration of snowmobiles and off-highway vehicles; and

WHEREAS, money collected from registrations fund safety programs, education, trail access and development, trail grooming, and trail signage; and

WHEREAS, support of winter trails bring increased commerce and provides jobs to Alaska communities through increased recreational visitation, providing revenue throughout the tough winter season; and

WHEREAS, a return on investment analysis done by earth economics, dated December 11, 2015, indicates that for every \$1 spent on public open space in the Borough, there is a \$5.31 return on that investment. Not only is investment in open spaces a fiscally responsible decision, it is also necessary for the survival of ecosystems and all of the Alaska communities they support; and

WHEREAS, there are over 39,555 registered snowmobile users in the state of Alaska and that approximately 85 percent of those users either directly benefit from or have the potential to benefit from the funding and services provided by SNOWTRAC; and

WHEREAS, it would be a breach of trust for the state of Alaska to discontinue the SNOWTRAC program and use those funds for other purposes, when so many registered snowmobile users pay these fees with the reasonable expectation that those funds will be used to support trail projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly hereby supports the restoration of funding to the Alaska State Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council for fiscal year 2020 via the supplemental budget process or other legislative means and respectfully requests that the Governor and Legislature do likewise.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 5 day of March, 2019.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Sykes, Beck, Leonard, Mayfield, and Boeve

NO: McKee and Sumner