



Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

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Mine*

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Rie Munoz Gallery

November 27, 2018

Honorable Mayor Beth Weldon

And

Assembly Members

City and Borough of Juneau

155 S. Seward Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Assembly Strategic Planning Retreat

Dear Mayor Weldon and Members of the Assembly:

Attached are the standing priorities for the Chamber that have been established by the Chamber's Government Relations Committee and Board of Directors, either by resolution or consensus process.

We recognize there are other initiatives before the Assembly that will have an impact on the business community. Our position on each will be determined by the facts and circumstances at the time.

The community relies upon your measured decisions to find the right balance of spending to provide necessary community services, address deferred maintenance for CBJ facilities and systems, while carefully investing in key infrastructure that ensures that Juneau remains the Capital City. The tenor of the Assembly's actions will dictate the level of confidence from the residents and businesses of Juneau

As always, the Juneau Chamber of Commerce expects to work closely with CBJ officials and the Assembly to help guide decisions for the benefit of all.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Satre".

Mike Satre, President

Juneau Chamber of Commerce

Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce Priorities

- **Juneau Access** - The Chamber has a long-standing position of support for the Juneau Access project. A road to Alaska's Capital City has the short-term impact of creating many jobs to offset the impact of further cuts in the state's budget, and the long-term benefit of connecting the capital to the state's road system and creating an abundance of economic opportunity for all communities of northern southeast and Whitehorse. This also provides for the efficient deployment of AMHS assets and providing an alternative for shipping products into and out of Juneau.
- **North Douglas Crossing / West Douglas Development / Deep Water Port** – Like Juneau Access, a North Douglas crossing to the mainland has been a Chamber priority for many years. The crossing, combined with the development of an adjacent deep-water port, will allow future development of Douglas Island, have a significant impact on freight and other marine commerce, and promote the expansion of the community into West Douglas. Connecting state highways on the island to state highways on the mainland opens the doors to different funding mechanisms than originally envisioned. Few, if any, development projects will be allowed to take place on North Douglas unless a second crossing is in place to alleviate existing conditions with the Juneau-Douglas bridge.
- **Juneau Economic Development Plan** - The Juneau Economic Development Plan was introduced in January of 2015, nearly four years ago. The Chamber supports the actions identified in the JEDP and have been actively engaged in our respective assignments agreed to in a joint CBJ/Stakeholder work session late in 2015.

We believe it is important that the entire assembly, given the turnover since the JEP was first introduced, and approved, read the plan in detail and understand the initiatives that make up the plan, the progress that has been made to date, and what is left to do.

- **CBJ Budget** – The chamber intends to work closely with CBJ to ensure a sustainable budget is in place and to monitor proposed actions that impact the health of the business community. There are many projects vying for a limited amount of dollars, whether from the existing tax base, proposed new taxes/fees, or municipal bond funds. There needs to be a clear path as to how all necessary projects can be addressed while keeping the current tax structure intact.
- **Tourism** – The Chamber urges the Assembly to be strategic and committed to the ongoing development of the necessary infrastructure that supports our tourism industry. Destination travelers and the cruise line passengers are a critical and necessary part of our economic stability. It is also a fragile industry that relies heavily on Juneau being a great community to visit, whether a day-long visit off a ship, a week-long exploration for someone that arrived by boat or plane, or a convention. Juneau is “not” a spot on the Interstate but a thoughtful and expensive trip of a lifetime for many people, and we need to ensure that continues for many years to come.