

# Southeast Conference Overview

February 11-13, 2025

2025 Mid-Session Summit



# ABOUT SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

- Southeast Conference was incorporated in 1958, primarily to advocate for the creation of the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- After that success, stayed together to continue to advocate for issues that are key to the southeast region as a whole.
- Looks for consensus for the betterment of the region.
- Members from nearly every community, chamber of commerce, and economic development organization in the region.
- Support the Southeast Conference of Mayors and the Marine Transportation Advisory Board.
- Southeast Conference is the federally designated Regional Economic Development District and the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization.



# SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# Mission Vision Values

## of Southeast Conference

### MISSION

What we do

SEC's mission is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, sustainable communities, and a healthy environment in Southeast Alaska.

### VISION

Why we do it

To facilitate enduring connections that enable dynamic, diverse, and thriving economies across Southeast Alaska.

### VALUES

How we do it

We position Southeast Alaska as an economic leader in the global economy.

We engage community leaders to develop solutions which will enhance the economic sustainability of our region.

We catalyze change and prosperity for our diverse region.

We facilitate visionary and adaptive solutions to sustain our region in perpetuity.

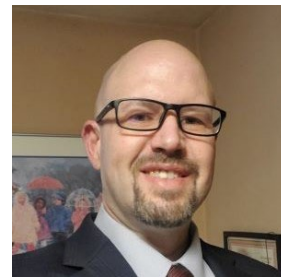
We build trust among our partners.

We respect and celebrate the diversity of our region.

We develop capacity internally and externally to accomplish our mission.



# SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE STAFF



# PUBLICATIONS



*available to download at*

**WWW.SECONFERENCE.ORG/PUBLICATIONS**



**SOUTHEAST  
CONFERENCE**

# NAVIGATING THE CHANGING TIDES

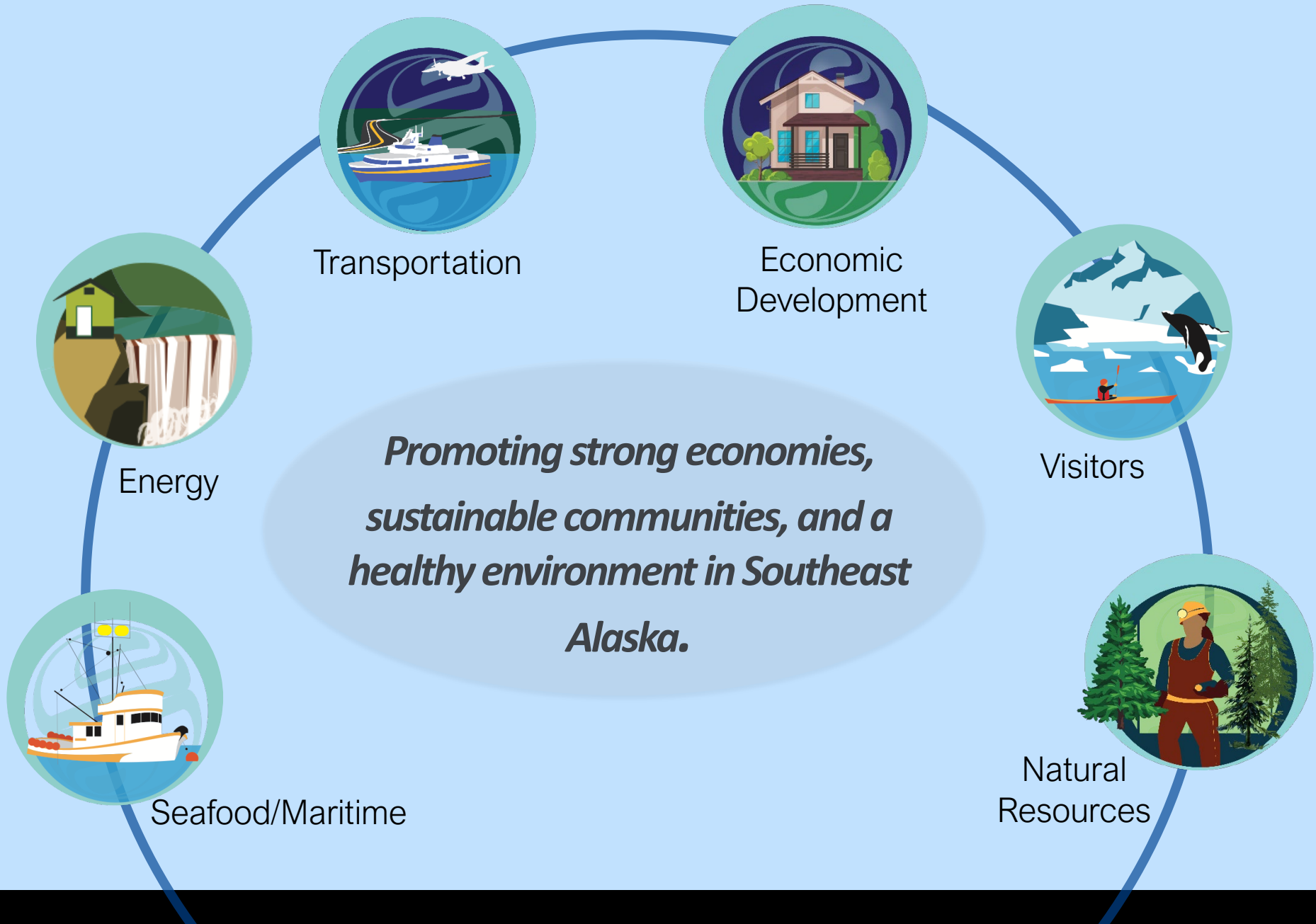
**2024 SOUTHEAST ALASKA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & 66TH ANNUAL MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 24-26 2024


KETCHIKAN, ALASKA



# COMMITTEES



# SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE'S 2025 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES



**1 TRANSPORTATION:**  
Sustain and Support the AK Marine Hwy System

**2 SEAFOOD:**  
Mariculture Development

**3 VISITOR'S INDUSTRY:**  
Market SE Alaska to attract more visitor spending  
and more visitor opportunities

**4 ENERGY:**  
Promote Beneficial Electrification

# TRANSPORTATION

- AMHS Long-Range Plan
- Low/No Emissions
- Green Energy Corridor
- Saxman Project
- AMHS Business Impact Study
- Regional Planning Organization
- Other New Vessels
- USFS Long-Range Transportation Plan



# ENERGY

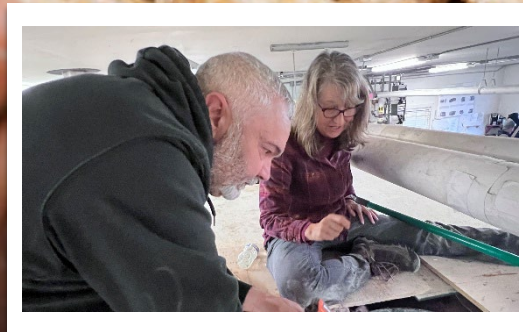


## CURRENT PROGRAMS

- CPRG - \$38.6 Million for heat pumps
- EV Chargers
- REDA
- Arctic Ambassadors
- Energy Shed Project
- Rural Energy Conference

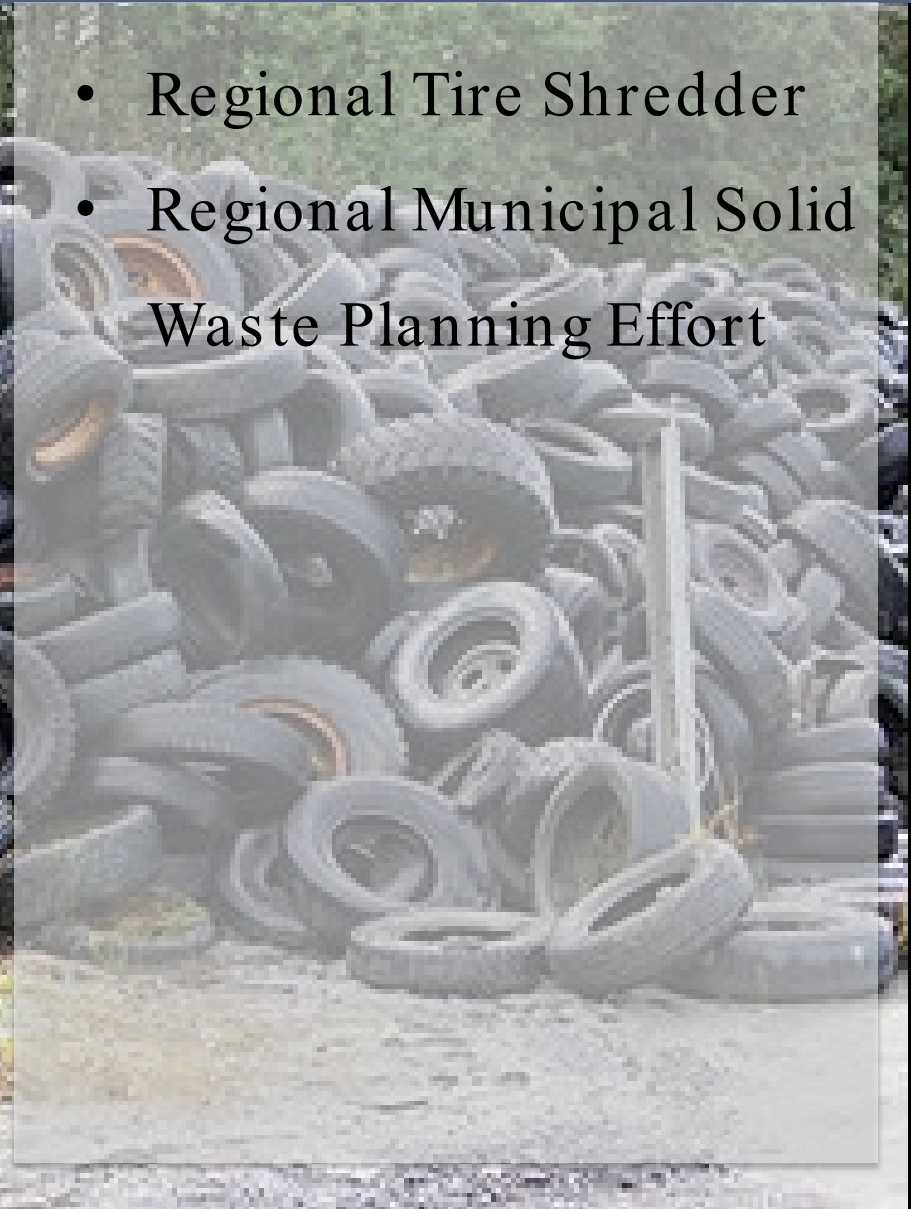
# BIO MASS

- State-Wide Biomass Operator Training
- Gravina Island Pellet Mill
- Alaska Pellet Supply
- BDO Zone
- Tongass Collaborative Coalition
- POW Integrated Forest Product Campus



# SEASWA

- Regional Tire Shredder
- Regional Municipal Solid Waste Planning Effort



# MARICULTURE

## ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER

- DEC Lab
- University courses & workshops (50 students enrolled in UA's mariculture class)
- Spruce Root Technical Trainings
- Increased hatchery capacity/seed production
- Developing non-food market products
- Funding 9 Feasibility Studies
- Funding 9 Equipment proposals
- Beginning work on processing facility
- Revolving Loan Fund



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

## SUBAWARD RECIPIENTS

- AK Sustainable Fisheries Trust
- AK Oyster COOP
- Oceans Alaska
- Craig City Schools
- +15 Microgrant Recipients
- Pellet Mill

# SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE'S 2030 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES



**1 HOUSING:**  
Support the Sustainable Development of Housing

**2 CHILD CARE:**  
Increase Childcare Capacity in Southeast Alaska

**3 TRANSPORTATION:**  
Support the Stability, Sustainable & Longevity of the Marine Highway Systems of Alaska

**4 ENERGY:**  
Reduce Costs & Increase Deployment of Renewables

**5 SEAFOOD:**  
Further Develop Markets for Alaska Seafood

**6 SEAFOOD:** Seafood Modernization Initiative

**7 VISITOR'S INDUSTRY:**  
Support Local Ownership & Entrepreneurship

# FUTURE POTENTIAL PROJECTS



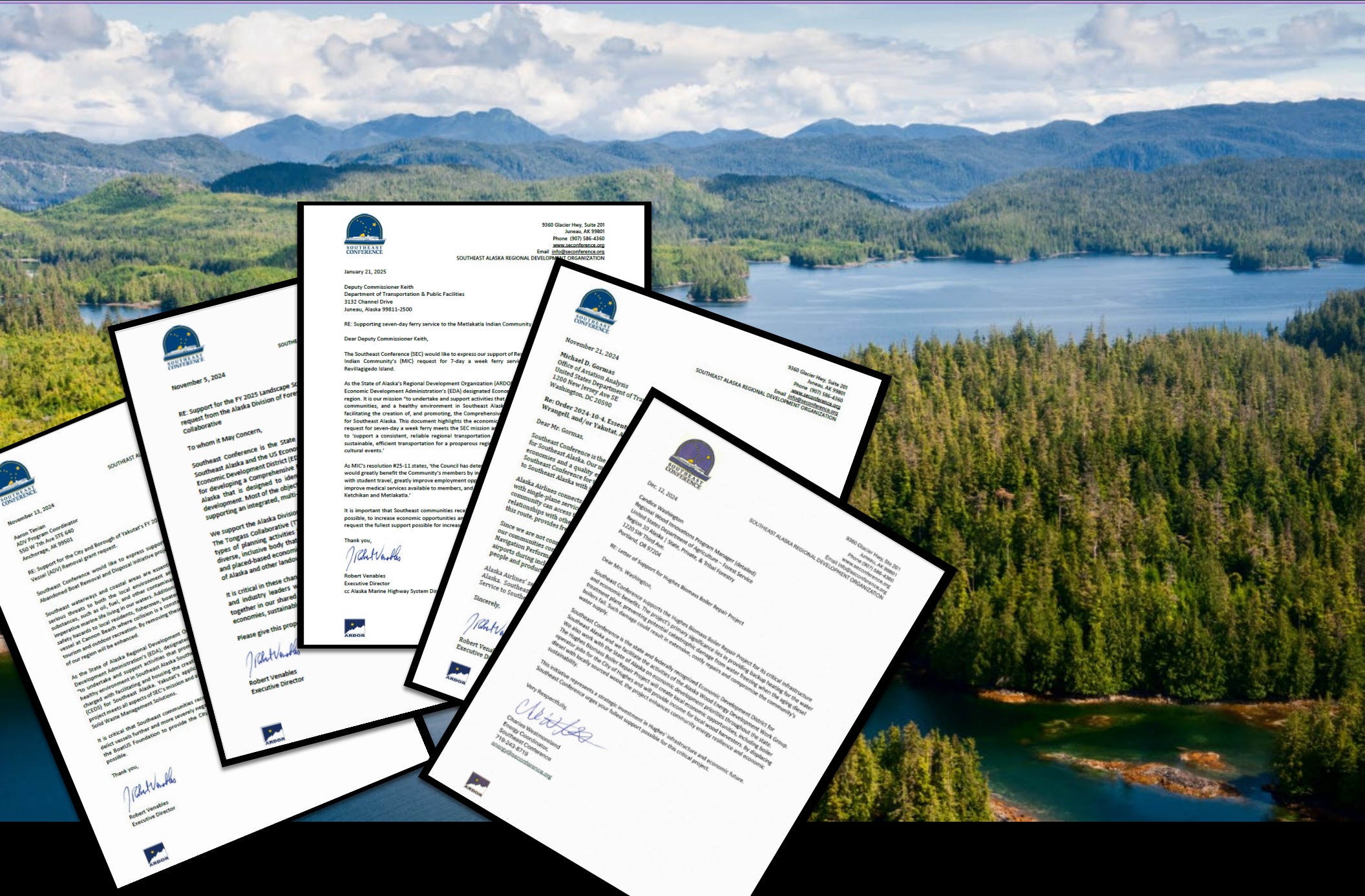
## OPPORTUNITIES


- SEA Trails
- Young Growth Timber
- Fisheries Modernization

## CHALLENGES

- Affordable Housing
- Labor Shortage
- Inflation & Supply-Chain

# MANY MANY LETTERS OF SUPPORT



  
9360 Glacier Hwy, Suite 201  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone (907) 586-4360  
www.seconf.org  
Email info@seconf.org

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

January 21, 2025

Deputy Commissioner Keith  
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
3132 Channel Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500

RE: Supporting seven-day ferry service to the Metiakaata Indian Community

Dear Deputy Commissioner Keith,


The Southeast Conference (SEC) would like to express our support of the Metiakaata Indian Community's (MIC) request for 7-day a week ferry service to Revillego Island.


As the State of Alaska's Regional Development Organization (ARDO) Economic Development Administration's (EDA) designated Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska, it is our mission "to undertake and support activities that facilitate the creation of, and promoting, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska. This document highlights the economic request for seven-day a week ferry meets the SEC mission and to "support a consistent, reliable regional transportation system that is sustainable, efficient transportation for a prosperous region and its cultural events."

As MIC's resolution #25-11 states, "the Council has determined that it would greatly benefit the Community's members by providing a ferry service with student travel, greatly improve employment opportunities, improve medical services available to members, and improve the quality of life for the community members of the Metiakaata Indian Community and Ketchikan and Metiakaata."

It is important that Southeast communities receive the support necessary to increase economic opportunities and request the fullest support possible for increasing economic development.

Thank you,

  
Robert Venables  
Executive Director  
cc Alaska Marine Highway System Dept



  
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Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone (907) 586-4360  
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

November 21, 2024

Michael D. Gormas  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Order 2024-10-4, Esseatt Wrangell and/or Yakutat.

Dear Mr. Gormas,

Southeast Conference is the Economic Development District for Southeast Alaska. Our mission is to support a consistent, reliable regional transportation system that is sustainable, efficient transportation for a prosperous region and its cultural events.

Alaska Airlines connects Southeast Alaska with the rest of the world with single-plane service. This relationship provides the community with access to this route, provides the community with access to this route, provides the community with access to this route.


Since we are not our own committee, our communities can't airports during the winter months and people and products.

Alaska Airlines' service to Southeast Alaska is critical to the economic development of the region. Southeast Conference supports the Alaska Airlines' service to Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Venables  
Executive Director



  
9360 Glacier Hwy, Suite 201  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Dec. 12, 2024

Caroline Washington  
Regional Wood Promotions Program Manager (detailed)  
Bureau of Land Management - Forest Service  
1220 SW 17th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Letter of Support for Hughes Biomass Boiler Repair Project

Dear Ms. Washington,


Southeast Conference supports the Hughes Biomass Boiler Repair Project and economic benefits. The project's primary significance lies in providing backup heating for the water treatment plant, preventing potential catastrophic damage from water freezing when the aging diesel boiler fails. Such damage could result in extensive, costly repairs and compromise the community's water supply.


Southeast Conference supports the Hughes Biomass Boiler Repair Project for its critical infrastructure and economic benefits. The project's primary significance lies in providing backup heating for the water treatment plant, preventing potential catastrophic damage from water freezing when the aging diesel boiler fails. Such damage could result in extensive, costly repairs and compromise the community's water supply.


We also work with the State of Alaska on economic development projects throughout the state. The Hughes Biomass Boiler Repair Project will create local economic opportunities, including jobs for the City of higher and will provide a room for local wood inventors. By displacing diesel with locally sourced wood, the project enhances community energy resilience and economic sustainability.

This initiative represents a strategic investment in higher infrastructure and economic future. Southeast Conference urges your fullest support possible for this critical project.

Very respectfully,

  
Charles Weismann  
Energy Coordinator  
Southeast Conference  
718-843-8119  
info@seconf.org



  
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Juneau, AK 99801  
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

November 5, 2024

RE: Support for the FY 2025 Landscape Site Request from the Alaska Division of Forestry Collaborative


To whom it May Concern,


Southeast Conference is the State of Alaska and the US Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska. Our mission is to support a consistent, reliable regional transportation system that is sustainable, efficient transportation for a prosperous region and its cultural events.

We support the Alaska Division of Forestry's Tongass Collaborative (TC) for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska. This document highlights the economic request for seven-day a week ferry meets the SEC mission and to "support a consistent, reliable regional transportation system that is sustainable, efficient transportation for a prosperous region and its cultural events."

It is critical that Southeast communities receive the support necessary to increase economic opportunities and request the fullest support possible for increasing economic development.

Thank you,

  
Robert Venables  
Executive Director



  
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

November 13, 2024

Aaron Timlin  
ADV Program Coordinator  
550 W 7th Ave STE 640  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Support for the City and Borough of Yakutat's FY 2025 Abandoned Boat Removal and Disposal Initiative Project

Southeast Conference would like to express support for the City and Borough of Yakutat's FY 2025 Abandoned Boat Removal and Disposal Initiative Project. Southeast Conference is the State of Alaska and the US Economic Development District (EDD) for Southeast Alaska. Our mission is to support a consistent, reliable regional transportation system that is sustainable, efficient transportation for a prosperous region and its cultural events.

Southeast waterways and coastal areas are exposed to various threats to both the local environment and the subsistence marine life living in our waters. Additional threats to local residents, fishermen, boaters, and outdoor recreation. By removing these boats from our region will be enhanced.

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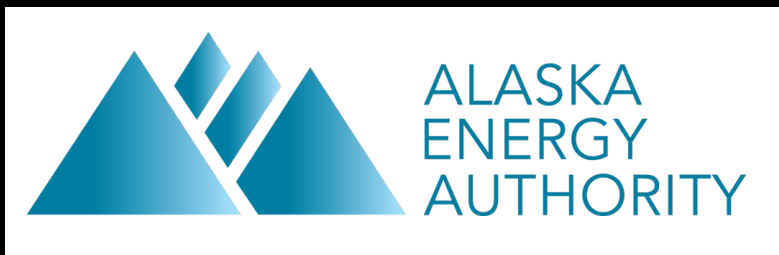
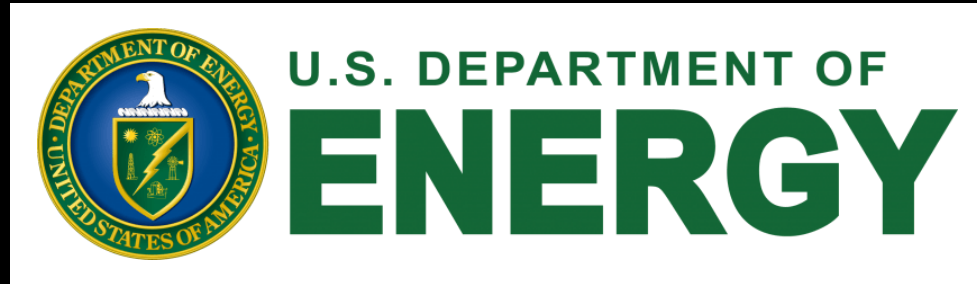
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Thank you,

  
Robert Venables  
Executive Director



# Funding Partners



# SEC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

University of Alaska

Spruce Root

Tlingit & Haida

Denali Commission

ONE USDA

AK Municipal  
League

State of Alaska

AMHS

SARDFA

AK Heat Smart

Information Insights

AK Mariculture  
Alliance

ASGA

NADO

SWAMCC

KPED

PWSEDD

Sealaska

Deerstone  
Consulting

ANTHC

SEASWA

AFDF

Sea Grant

Grantham  
Foundation

WWF

SEACOAST Trust



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THANK YOU!

*Save the Date!*

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Annual Meeting

September 16-18, 2023

Sitka, Alaska



**Robert Venables**

[robert@seconference.org](mailto:robert@seconference.org) 907.586.4360