



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAN MAYFIELD
DISTRICT NO. 5

350 E. Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, Alaska 99645-6488
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February 21, 2019

The Honorable Governor Dunleavy
Via email at Michael.dunleavy@alaska.gov
And hand delivery

Honorable Governor Dunleavy:

Through an interaction with the Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, I was surprised to hear that funding for snowmobile trail grooming, education, and safety projects was not included in your proposed budget. I am hoping that this was an unintended oversight on the part of your staff rather than an action taken with intent. It is extremely important that this program be restored for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Here is a little background. AS 28.39.020 authorized the Department of Administration/DMV to collect a snowmobile registration fee. The Statute does not state what the fees will go toward, however, since inception, the promise and understanding was that DMV would transfer all fees generated to the Department of Natural Resources/Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. It was agreed that the Division would establish a State Snowmobile Advisory Board (SnowTRAC) and that the funds received from DMV would be spent on trail grooming, as well as snowmobile education and safety projects. SnowTRAC has been in existence since 1999. DNR has included a line item for this funding in their Capital Budget every year. Apparently, this line item was inadvertently or intentionally left out of your proposed budget. I am asking that both you and the Legislature work together to restore that funding.

It is extremely important to understand that the SnowTRAC program is the only user based, self-funded fee program in the State. It is a revenue neutral program that users asked for and fund out of their own registration dollars. We are not asking for a handout. The money funds trail care, safety and grooming activities that, in turn, bring increased business through recreational visitation to each of the communities throughout the State who have qualified for these funds. Failure to fund this program means the end of SnowTRAC, increased hazards on the trails, the failure of several non-profit organizations who work to support snowmobile activity and decreased business/revenue for communities up and down the trail system.

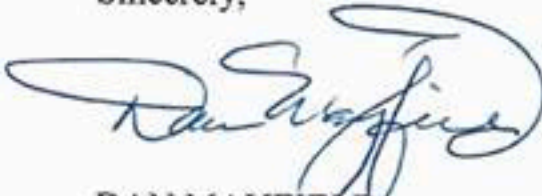
As Co-Chair of the State Snowmobile Advisory Board, as President of Big Lake Trails, Inc. and as an Assembly Member in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, I see firsthand how very important this program is for our communities and users. I hope that you agree.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and your work to see that this program is fully restored. I would be pleased to provide any supplemental information you may need to make an informed decision regarding this request.

I can be reached at 907-892-7406 or 907-602-8490 if there is anything I can assist with.

Note: this letter reflects my opinion only, as the Borough Assembly has not yet taken an official position on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Mayfield", written in a cursive style.

DAN MAYFIELD
Assembly Member, District 5

cc: Mayor Vern Halter
Mat-Su Borough Assembly Members
Mat-Su Borough Manager
All State Legislators