

Testimony to Senate Finance Committee – 4/8/22

Thank you. My name is Ann Rappoport; I co-chair the Rabbit Creek Community Council and am a 43-year resident of Anchorage.

I will highlight three priority CAPSIS proposals the RCCC respectfully requests be included in SB 164:

1) Chugach State Park Access – residents and visitors love Chugach State Park in Anchorage’s backyard yet on sunny days are frustrated by the lack of parking and access points to observation points, world class trails, and backcountry here. You have a CAPSIS proposal for \$400,000 to initiate development of a new parking lot, at a location to be determined, and improvements at other trailheads. We encourage you to increase this to \$2.6 million to allow completion of this project.

2) South Potter Marsh Improvements – Nearly a million dollars is being expended this year to improve parking and visitor facilities at South Potter Marsh in the Anchorage Coastal Refuge, but key components of this shovel ready project had to be dropped due to increased supply costs. We request \$780,000 to complete important safety and recreation elements – including toilets, improved pedestrian designations so kids can safely walk to and from their school buses, and boardwalk expansion.

Both of these projects not only provide healthy outdoor opportunities for Alaskans they provide tourism opportunities which create economic returns and diversity!

3) Disaster Evacuation Routes on the Anchorage Hillside – are sorely lacking but critically important as our community faces threats such as wildfires, earthquakes, and windstorms. A \$250,000 CAPSIS proposal will let us begin to identify, plan, and establish low cost connections and secondary egress for disasters. Eventually \$10 million will be needed to fully develop all the needed connections for our many isolated neighborhoods. This will build on the proactive work of our Hillside-wide Resilience Committee.

The Rabbit Creek Community Council greatly appreciates the support of our Legislators, Representative Kaufman and Senator Holland, as well as Senator Revak and Representative Schrage for the Hillside Evacuation Route and other fire mitigation proposal.