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ALASKA STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

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November 14, 2011

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE LIBRARY ARCHIVES MUSEUM (SLAM) PROJECT

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
State of Alaska
POB 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

The Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) operates under the guidelines of the National Historical Publications & Records Commission and believes that the collection and preservation of historical records, Alaska's priceless legacy, are fundamental to understanding our past and guiding our future. Accordingly, we fully support the funding necessary to complete the new Statewide Library, Archives & Museum building in Juneau.

The existing archives and museum buildings are obsolete and structurally deficient. Collection space is limited and the buildings lack efficient temperature and humidity controls for long-term preservation of state records, photographs, and museum artifacts.. This places the collections at great risk.

Honorable Sean Parnell
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The three facilities--Library, Archives and Museum--provide a great benefit to the entire state. Just a few of the priceless items preserved include: the official papers of every governor; Territorial Court System and Alaska Legislative records; Recorder's Office dockets, journals, and bound volumes; diaries of Alaska's pioneers; the original *State Constitution*, and, artifacts of Natives and sourdoughs.

The collections of these facilities form an internationally recognized, coherent and comprehensive collection of Alaska history and culture. Further, the Division provides traveling exhibits throughout the state; makes loans to Alaska libraries, archives, and museums; and, provides technical support and conservation services to local museums, libraries and historical societies.

The new facility will greatly enhance the capability to provide these services, including web-based access, while providing essential protection and preservation of these irreplaceable articles of Alaska's heritage. Funding received to date totals \$32.4 million and covers completion of the final design and initial site preparation. A \$94.5 million appropriation will complete the project.

We urge you, on behalf of present and future generations of Alaskans, to include funding in your proposed FY13 capital budget to complete this project. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Caffall-Davis, ASHRAB Chair-person Pro Tem

With full concurrence and support by the following ASHRAB members:

Peter Caffall-Davis, Public, Hyder Archives, ASHRAB Chair-person Pro Tem, Hyder
Teresa Fahning, Government Records, City of Soldotna Clerk, Soldotna
Zach Jones, Native American Records, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau
Gladi Kulp, Public/Historical, Juneau
Carol O'Malley, Public/Historical, Anchorage
Laura Samuelson, Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Nome

The following members recused themselves due to potential conflicts of interest:

Dean Dawson, State Archivist, ASHRAB Coordinator
Judith Bittner, State Historical Preservation Officer, ASHRAB Deputy Coordinator