

A LETTER TO ALASKA'S LEADERS

Dear Alaskans,

We are a group of Alaska philanthropies united by a shared love and passion for Alaska and its people.

As grant makers we collectively contribute approximately \$65 million to nonprofits, tribes and communities each year. We are private foundations, giving programs and public charities, that award these grants in response to community needs that span from education, health care, human services, housing, arts, cultural heritage, to public safety and environment.

We work in partnership with Alaska communities who help us understand what is important to them, and in partnership with the State of Alaska who has been our co-investor in many projects and programs.

Together we help improve the quality of life for Alaskans by increasing educational opportunities, building safe and affordable housing for our neighbors, growing the number of Alaska Native college graduates, supporting our arts communities, and creating gathering places, playgrounds and parks. We work together to stop things that diminish our quality of life—suicide, addiction, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect—by increasing access to mental health services, housing homeless individuals and families, and providing places for our seniors.

We believe in a fiscal plan that acknowledges our shared values and balances constraint with long-term social and economic investments today.

We strengthen Alaska's business environment by promoting development and redevelopment of community assets and provide access to affordable capital for emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Now is not the time for the State to scale back that partnership or put these investments at risk while there is still so much more work to do. We have seen Alaskans across the state coming together to share — loudly and strongly — their concerns when faced with the potential of cutting services to close a \$1.6 billion gap in the State budget.

Thank you for standing up. We stand with you in your efforts to make your voices heard at town halls and forums, in letters to the editor, on social media, and in the halls of the State Capitol.

We know State leaders are grappling with very difficult decisions to balance the financial future of our state with the desire to maintain and build vibrant, resilient communities, to protect people and our economy, and to help those who need help the most. What we hold as Alaska values, and what we have seen in the communities where we invest, is a love of our neighbors. We value elders. We value children. We value our land. We value our diversity.

We will continue to fund organizations and support communities seeking to build a better Alaska. But we cannot do it alone. The \$65 million we contribute each year simply cannot fill a fiscal hole of the magnitude we see in the current State budget.

We are here as your partners, firm in our belief that Alaska has always worked best when all sectors — nonprofit, corporate and government — work together. We believe in a fiscal plan that acknowledges our shared values and balances constraint with long-term social and economic investments today.

WE SUPPORT A BUDGET THAT VALUES ALASKANS

