FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 13

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ROUTE FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL HAULING FROM THE MANH CHOH MINE TO THE FORT KNOX MILL

WHEREAS, Fairbanks has its roots in mining since Felix Pedro staked the Discovery Claim on what is now Pedro Creek in 1902; and

WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough supports the plan to develop the Kinross Gold/Contango Manh Choh Mine project near Tetlin, Alaska which will continue the historic tradition of mining gold in the Interior; and

WHEREAS, The ore trucking proposal will make 192 times trips every day using double-trailer ore hauling trucks, 95 feet long and weighing up to 80 tons, making the 240 mile trip from Tetlin to Cleary summit and then make the return trip; and

WHEREAS, Many Interior Alaska residents use that part of the Richardson and Steese Highways daily to commute to and from work, for shopping, medical appointments, transporting students to and from school in private vehicles and school buses, including law enforcement, emergency vehicles such as ambulance and fire equipment; and

WHEREAS, Military personnel living off-base must be able to report to work within a specific time period limiting the location of where they can live or rent housing and this increased traffic by so many daily ore hauling trucks may impact where and if they can live off base with their families; and

WHEREAS, The addition of these double trailers, driven in all Alaskan weather conditions, will accelerate wear and tear on Alaska highways, especially the Richardson, and will create unsafe driving conditions; and

WHEREAS, The current transportation plan has created a great deal of concern in our community about impact upon roads, traffic, safety, and other considerations that require thorough examination, including the winter time safety of the 110+ school bus stops along the proposed route; and
WHEREAS, The Governor has recently amended his budget to propose more than $50 million to begin the multi-year update to bridges along the Richardson and Steese Highways to begin the multi-year process of redirecting millions of State and Federal dollars to address the safety of these routes for the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, As a second class borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough recognizes that it doesn't have legal authority or jurisdiction in this matter and can only act in an advisory capacity in what it considers to be in the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Recently the EPA Region 10 recommended a partial approval and partial disapproval of the Fairbanks PM2.5 Serious State Implementation Plan, which is required due to the failure to attain national ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, The letter dated February 11, 2022 from the EPA to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) expressed deep concerns on the analytical work yet to be done with no formal reply for the ACOE; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing military convoys traveling on these same highways travel at reduced speeds, impacting travel flow;

WHEREAS, Industrial ore hauling operations utilizing the long combination of vehicles (LCV'S) require a state review and approval process called out in current state regulations to properly travel in the designated routes to cover much of the cost of maintenance and improvement; and

WHEREAS, The City of North Pole City Council has already passed Resolution No. 23-03 Expressing Opposition to the Sole Ore Trucking proposal for the Manh Choh Mine Project; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Fairbanks passed Resolution No. 5021, "A Resolution Expressing Concern With the Ore Trucking Proposal for the Manh Choh Mine Project;" and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough expresses opposition to the proposed transportation route for private industrial hauling from the Manh Choh mine to the Fort Knox mill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly directs the Clerk to distribute a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska Interior Delegation, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

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Aaron Lojewski
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

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April Trickey, MMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVED:

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Jill . Dolan
Borough Attorney