

**Response from Brandon Kowalski:**

1. What is your level of concern for the safety and financial impacts to Alaskans with the model of using our public road system for Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) by mining companies, especially in light of the reduced federal highway funding?

**I am deeply concerned by the model of using public infrastructure to maximize commercial profit on an industrial scale. The Manh Choh ore haul operation is heavily utilizing our public roads to the detriment of Alaskan health and safety, and is causing significant wear and tear. Maintaining our roads is already costly, without the added road degradation from this industrial operation.**

- 1a. Please explain how expanding industrial use of public infrastructure is or is not a legislative priority for you.

**I do not believe that large corporations should be using public infrastructure solely to maximize industrial profit, especially at increased cost and risk to the public.**

2. Are you willing to speak directly with the governor and the DOT&PF commissioner to request immediate release of the Alaska-Richardson-Steese Highway Corridor Action Plan promised March 8, 2022?

**This plan will help quantify the impacts of the Manh Choh ore haul on the highway corridor and identify potential solutions. I'm willing to work with the governor and DOT&PF commissioner to push for this report's completion so we can move forward on addressing this issue.**

- 2a. How will you ensure the recommendations from the pending independent study on the impacts of the ore haul are implemented and adhered to by the state?

**I take the health and safety of the communities I'm hoping to represent very seriously, and I think the state should as well. Recommendations put forth that have a clear impact on public health and safety should be promptly addressed by the state.**

- 2b. Are you willing to push for committee hearings to achieve this and strengthen overall accountability?

**Yes**

3. There is rapidly increasing industrial use of Alaska's public infrastructure for mining and other resource extraction operations. Are you willing to look at and work towards legal changes to definitions of "commercial" and "industrial" transportation with the goal of requiring heavy industrial users to share the financial burden for their use of public infrastructure?

**I think this is something we should consider.**

3a. Are you willing to pursue imposing and enforcing weight limits on vehicles using public highways and bridges?

**This is something we should consider.**

3b. Are you willing to pursue clarifying and improving the permit system for oversized vehicles?

**Yes**