

DESK PACKET

(ITEMS THAT CAME IN AFTER MEETING PACKET WAS POSTED)

3. Resolution 2022-054: Approving the Acquisition of a Public Access Easement from the State of Alaska for Watermelon Trail.



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Sarah Vance

House District 31

October 19th, 2022

Planning Commission
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N Binkley St,
Soldotna, AK 99669
Sent via email

Dear Planning Commissioners,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission to adopt resolution 2022-054 to become the Easement Grantee for the historic Watermelon Trail on the Lower Kenai Peninsula (Public Recreational Trail Easement ADL 233843).

The Watermelon Trail, along with its Trailhead Parking Area, is one of the major backcountry arteries providing multiuse access to the Caribou Hills South Trail System. This trail has been used by the public for decades but has lacked consistent authorized maintenance that has led to degradation of the habitat and limited access for users.

In good faith, Snomads as well as their numerous volunteers, have worked tirelessly to develop and maintain some 135 miles of area trails for the benefit of all Backcountry Users (Snowmachiners, ATVers, Skiers, Fat Bikers, Hikers, Horse Riders and Dog Musers).

It is my understanding that the Alaska Division of Natural Resources requires the KPB acceptance of the "KPB Grantee" status for the Trail Easement and Entry Authorization in the form of a fully executed KPB Resolution to continue their processing. I have personally worked with Snomads to help facilitate a permanent easement for this trail being granted by DNR and am happy to see this project come before the commission.

KPB acceptance of the Watermelon Trail Easement, as its "Grantee", in partnership with Snomads as Trail Managers (KPB-Snomads CTMA 2021-01) will provide long-term, coherent, and consistent management of this important trail for generations to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Vance".

Representative Sarah Vance