


# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Tyson Cox, Assembly Vice Presiden 

**DATE:** April 25, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2024-020, Requesting that United States Policymakers Allow More Flexibility in Material Procurement for Build America, Buy America Act Infrastructure Projects (Cox)

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On Saturday, April 20, 2024, I attended Senator Bjorkman's Transportation Town Hall in which representatives of the Alaska Department of Transportation reported on upcoming summer road construction projects. Many questions were asked about the Kenai Spur Highway and Cooper Landing bypass projects.

While listening to community questions and DOT responses it became clear that the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act is going to have a significant impact on how our Peninsula infrastructure projects will progress. Supporting domestic manufacturing and American-made materials is important, but requiring rigid domestic content requirements without flexibility will likely delay projects and limit the ability of project managers to optimize resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for KPB taxpayers.

Janette Bower, Soldotna City Manager, was also in attendance at the Town Hall meeting. During the week following the meeting, Ms. Bower and I discussed our concerns regarding BABA and Peninsula infrastructure projects. Ms. Bower shared that she was sending letters to our US Senators and Representatives on behalf of the City of Soldotna regarding their desire for more flexibility in BABA.

Attached is the letter Ms. Bower presented to the Soldotna City Council in her Manager's Report on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. With Ms. Bower's permission, this resolution was drafted utilizing information contained in her letter.

Your consideration is appreciated.