



April 16, 2019

Assemblyman Kenn Carpenter
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Re: Moose Pass School Funding Support

Dear Assemblyman Carpenter & KPB Assembly Members

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Corridor Communities Association (KMTA) recognizes the cultural and historic significance of rural public schools and the role quality education for children has in creating vibrant and healthy communities. It has come to our attention that Moose Pass School is at risk of closing and subsequently consolidating with William H. Seward Elementary School due to proposed state-wide budget cuts.

KMTA requests the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly maintain funding for Moose Pass School and ensures the school, housed in a historic building, continues to operate as a place of learning now and into the future. To not do so would negatively alter the educational, economic, and cultural fabric of the community.

As detailed in the State of Alaska Executive Proclamation by Governor Sean Parnell on May 20, 2010, the historic importance of Moose Pass School is significant. Moose Pass children attend classes in the oldest continually used school building in the Kenai Peninsula School District. For 89 years, the school has provided an excellent public education to the community's children.

Schools within the KMTA communities of Moose Pass, Hope, Cooper Landing, Seward, Whittier, and Girdwood serve as the anchor and heart of our National Heritage Area. These schools provide a venue for community residents and students to interact

through educational based activities such as science fairs, spelling bee competitions, athletic events, holiday-themed carnivals, and musical performances. The community gathers on school grounds for fundraisers to aid in generating funds to pay for extracurricular activities. The lands found within the National Heritage Area provide an expansive educational platform that can range in topic from natural science, to history, and to world-class recreational education opportunities.

I am hopeful the Kenai Peninsula Borough will ensure funding for Moose Pass School is maintained and continues to serve the children, families, and residents of this community. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Szelag', is positioned above the typed name.

Jessica Szelag
Executive Director
KMTA National Heritage Area

cc: KPB Assembly Clerk
cc: KMTA Board of Directors