

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
3601 "C" STREET, SUITE 370
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5930
PH: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 561-6134

CENTRAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 110030
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0030
PH: (907) 465-3562/FAX: (907) 465-3075

PIPELINE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE
411 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 2C
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2343
PH: (907) 271-4336/FAX: (907) 272-0690

January 17, 1996

Steve Martin
Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Mr. Martin:

On behalf of the State of Alaska, thank you for hosting the December 12, 1995 information gathering meeting in Fairbanks concerning new north side access into Denali National Park. This letter documents and clarifies the state administration's views on new north side access that were presented at the meeting.

As outlined in my brief presentation, this administration believes that resource development decisions, including tourism development, should be based on the following principles:

- Sound science and conservation
- Long-term sustainability and sound economics
- A consensus based public process that involves Alaskans

We understand your aim is to conduct a thorough and objective process to assess the benefits and challenges of a new access route into the interior of the park. Such an analytical process is entirely consistent with the above principles. It also appears to address the December 1994 recommendations of the National Park System Advisory Board following completion of the Denali Task Force Report.

Regarding new north access, the Governor is attracted to the merits of the privately funded railroad proposal put forth by Kantishna Holdings, Inc. The rail proposal would increase the number of people experiencing the national park, and in doing so would create substantial new employment opportunities at minimum public expense. The proposal needs to be carefully evaluated, however, to insure that the important park values which now lure visitors are not compromised. The process underway should consider the impacts associated with new development at Wonder Lake and/or Kantishna separate from, but concurrent with, the impacts of new surface access into the area.

We look forward to participating in a review of the economic, environmental and technical feasibility of new north access into Denali National Park.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Pat Pourchot, Governor's Office
Joseph Perkins, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Gene Burden, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
William Hensley, Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Economic
Development
John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.
Marilyn Heiman, Governor's Office, Juneau
Timothy Towarak, Governor's Office, Juneau
Diane Mayer, Director, Division of Governmental Coordination
Joe Fields, Kantishna Holdings, Inc.