



550 S. Alaska St., Ste 101, PO Box 45, Palmer, AK 99645
Tel: (907) 745-2880 Fax: (907) 746-4164
www.palmerchamber.org info@palmerchamber.org

March 22, 2017

Re: The Alaska State Fair's Grant Application for the Yellow Trail Restroom Project

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Alaska State Fair's grant application for the Yellow Trail Restroom project. The water and sanitation project is critical to the life, health and safety of the fairgoers and employees of the Fair. The project will replace some of the unsanitary temporary toilets currently used by the Fair.

The Alaska State Fair has been an integral part of the Matanuska Valley for the past 82 years. Not only has this state fair provided entertainment, education, statewide outreach for our community and established partnerships that have assisted other community entities, it has hosted a variety of community non-profit, cultural and business events.

The name Alaska State Fair is synonymous with the Matanuska Valley, our hometown, Palmer, and is the flagship of cultural and entertainment activities for the state of Alaska.

In addition, the Fair employs approximately 1,700 Alaskans through its some 450 vendors, many of which come from the greater Palmer area, which equates to a payroll exceeding \$1.5 million. Total annual payroll generated by the Alaska State Fair from vendors, contractors and their corporate payroll is estimated to be \$3.5 million. According to a recent socioeconomic study, the Fair's economic activities have a \$22.5 million impact in Alaska.

The Fair takes pride in the fact that through their efforts, some 290,000 people on average attend each year. This has a direct impact on the organization's revenue and also provides exposure to the 50 plus non-profit organizations in the state that participate each year to raise money for their causes.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce recognizes the value of proper sanitation to protect the life, health and safety of the fairgoers and employees of the Fair. We support the Fair's application for a grant for the Yellow Trail Restroom project.

Sincerely,

Chris Chappel, President
Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce