

E1-6765



Ross Clement
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Sent by: rclement@gci.net

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To Ross Clement <rclement@gci.net>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: Railroad to disect Big Lake4

FRIENDS OF THE LAKES

DOCKET # 35095

I the undersigned, support Corridor 3 Willow Route of the Alaska Railroad - Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, Financial Docket No. 35095, I support this route as it is consistent with the Mat-Su Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (June 2006 Update), the Mat-Su Borough Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Rail Corridor Study, June 2003. These plans are in the best financial interest of the citizens of the Mat-Su Borough and the State of Alaska.

The connector that is the least disruptive to humans, animals and the environment is Corridor 3 - Willow Route.

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I strongly suggest and hope that you do not support Route 1. This route goes through the center of the Big Lake recreational and home owners area. There is no sensible reason that will support any passenger rail service to the area. The area immediately to the west and north of Big Lake, Horse Shoe, West and Hour Glass Lakes are by far the least desirable soil for railroad construction in the swamps and bogs, and the largest area of undisturbed moose habitat of the routes selected. If service to Wasilla is the desire, Route 2 is the best, but if the final service is from the Point McKenzie Port to the interior, as it is now, and connecting to the main line, the only and best option which includes the least impact to the population, communities, moose and other wildlife habitat, and least conflict with the environment, yet still giving a remote setting - is Route 3, located to the west of the Red Shirt recreational area. It should be noted that this area (West of Red Shirt) has been studied in the past as having a large coal reserve at a very shallow depth and with the railroad it would be in a idea location for transportation of this resource when it is developed in the future.