

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Representative Les Gara

March 29, 2012

Steve Ribuffo
2000 Anchorage Port Road
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Awaiting promise that State funds beyond \$350 million will not be requested.

Dear Steve:

I hope all is well. When you and Mr. Coffey were in the Legislature advocating for Port of Anchorage funding, I asked a question I'd still like an answer to. The former Port Director stated the three sections of the Port would cost roughly \$350 million each to replace. The north section expands berthing and loading. The middle section contains an office building on shaky pilings, and has berthing equipment and materials that have to be fixed and rebuilt. The south section was, according to the Port, needed for fuel storage and related activities.

The Mayor at one point said that the \$350 million he was asking for was for "the first phase" of this project – the North end – suggesting the Port or city would come back for another \$700 million later. I wanted a guarantee that would not happen, and that the project has been scaled back. In fact, my suggestion on the record was that this project be redesigned more efficiently, and taken back to the drawing board, something the Port and Mayor have not agreed to so far.

At the Finance hearing you attended I asked for, and was promised the following:

I wanted a guarantee that the Port would not ask the state for the funds needed for the middle and south sections, so the people of the state knew that the mayor's promise – that this was all that would be asked for – could be relied upon. That issue has produced many inconsistent answers, including statements by Mr. Coffey that this might not be a promise we can rely upon.

By this letter, I am asking for the promise from the Port I asked for earlier this session.

Will the Port pledge that it will not seek state funds to complete the middle and south section expansions, and that it will only seek the first \$350 million from the state? My understanding from you was you felt the Port could address those two phases with its own funds. The public cannot keep funding an ever-expanding project that was first proposed as a \$200 million project,

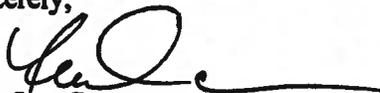
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then a \$500 million project, then and \$800 million project, and now a \$1.2 billion project of proposed and already expended funds. You did seem to promise in the House Finance Committee that Port or MoA funds would be used for those other sections.

I support a port expansion – but one that is efficiently sized, and efficiently completed.

Sincerely,



Rep. Les Gara