



## ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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Dear GAS Committee and Haines Borough Assembly,

The AGC would like to formally state its opposition to Haines Borough Ordinance No. 19-04-529, in its original form:

*“It is unlawful for any person, association, corporation, or other entity to operate an aqueous storage facility which handles hazardous materials, waste, or substances within one mile of any surface body of water.”*

And in its revised form:

*“It is unlawful for any person, association, corporation, or other entity to store liquids that contain hazardous materials, or hazardous waste, or substances within one mile of any surface body of water.”*

Associated General Contractors of Alaska is a membership trade association with more than 600 member companies from all corners of the state. Our members include general contractors, sub/specialty contractors, suppliers and associates that support our industry. Our mission is to advocate for our members and the Alaskan construction industry, to provide educational opportunities for our members, and to make the public aware of our members' skills, responsibility, and integrity.

The impact of this ordinance could have a devastating impact on businesses and on the economy of Haines as it will curtail construction operations, mining and gravel extraction operations within most of the Haines Borough. These operations are highly regulated by both Federal and State agencies, with heavy emphasis on compliance with Air Quality Management and the Federal Clean Water act, as well as very specific regulations controlling the handling and storage of various hazardous materials. Such hazardous materials include explosives for rock blasting; oil and lubricants needed to maintain heavy equipment fleets used in construction and earthmoving operations; asphalt cement for manufacturing hot mix asphalt for paving roads; emulsion products, made from oils and water used in the construction of roads and airports.

The State and Federal environmental regulations we comply with are already stringent enough to provide all the necessary protection that the Haines Borough might need. Due to the topography in the Chilkat Valley there is clearly no place where these operations could continue and remain in compliance with this proposed ordinance. This ordinance will shut down existing operations and severely restrict the area available for potential future developments for gravel extraction and mining, while adding significant costs to

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public projects if staging and storage of necessary materials will have to be remote from such projects.

The businesses now at risk make significant contributions to the Haines Borough economy and provide year-round jobs to many administrative and management personnel, who in turn support the schools and the greater community. This will undoubtedly have a negative economic impact on the Borough. Regardless, AGC encourages the Borough to engage with potentially impacted businesses in this process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Siira', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Alicia Siira, Executive Director  
Associated General Contractors of Alaska