

Presented By:
City Manager

Action Taken:
Yes 4
No 2
Abstain 0

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-18-08-09

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A PRIVATE ACCESS INDUSTRIAL ROAD FROM THE
AMBLER MINING DISTRICT TO THE PORT OF NOME FOR EXPORTING MINERAL
RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, economic development of stranded natural resources in interior and northwest Alaska depends on viable surface transportation to coastal waters for export to commercial markets; and,

WHEREAS, exploration of the Ambler Mining District (AMD) has indicated the presence of extensive mineral resources, including one of the largest undeveloped copper-zinc mineral belts in the world, which, once developed, would bring great economic benefit to the entire region; and,

WHEREAS, the current distance to transport these minerals to a port totals over 800 miles (211 to the east and 600 to the south), but a westerly route would be less than half of that; and,

WHEREAS, additional benefits of a western route could be realized through access to other resource development between the Ambler Mining District and Nome, namely: Kougarok District, Council District, Nome District, and Port Clarence District; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of Nome serves as the maritime transportation hub for the Bering Strait coastline, from the Yukon River to the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, supporting the distribution of cargo, fuel, and gravel, serving as a strategic resupply facility for marine operations and having sufficient commercial laydown property for staging mineral resources for export; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Nome and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are conducting a feasibility study for the construction of an Arctic Deep Draft Port at Nome, further compelling the need for surface transportation in northwest Alaska to create an intermodal transportation network that will support resource development; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) did an analysis of various transport routes from the AMD, giving only a cursory review to some elements of the western route alternatives, which warrants more in-depth consideration to evaluate the full comparative benefits and impacts to adjacent districts and surrounding communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a draft environmental impact statement for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project, which should include a thorough evaluation of the potential economic benefit to Nome and the region for a western alternative to develop a private industrial access route from the Ambler Mining District to Nome.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome Common Council supports the development of a private access industrial road from the Ambler Mining District to the Port of Nome for exporting mineral resources.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 24th day of September, 2018.



RICHARD BENEVILLE, Mayor

ATTEST:



BRYANT HAMMOND, City Clerk