



**ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Utilities Division**

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February 13, 2025

The Honorable Lisa A. Murkowski  
U.S. Senator  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: City and Borough of Juneau Congressionally Directed Spending / Community Project Funding Requests

Dear Honorable Senator Murkowski,

The Utility Advisory Board (UAB) strongly supports the City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ)'s project, "Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Disaster Mitigation – Protecting the Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Plant" and the community's request for FY2026 Congressionally Directed Spending funding to protect our critical infrastructure.

The UAB was created in 2004 with the purpose of making recommendations concerning the operation and management of the municipally-owned utilities here in Juneau. As providing such a crucial and complex service to an isolated, yet sizeable, community offers challenges that demand a vast array of expertise, the UAB has been leveraged to discuss and support multiple projects, rate changes, and community-wide efforts. It does not, however, take expertise to see the need to provide protection for our community's primary wastewater treatment plant from a known and increasing natural disaster.

CBJ's proposed project would conduct both near and long-term flood mitigation and resilience construction to protect the community's primary wastewater treatment facility. The 2023 and 2024 Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) events caused significant scouring of the riverbank in front of the Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP), threatening the facility and primary outfall, and damaging the facility's emergency outfall. CBJ engineers have identified the need to install a sheet pile wall along the riverbank to both prevent catastrophic damage to the facility from future GLOFs and reduce ongoing flood recovery and reconstruction costs. The proposed sheet pile wall will prevent further erosion and inundation of the MWWTP, thereby protecting critical public infrastructure, preserving community public health and safety, and potentially saving the community hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and recovery costs.

We urge your support of this important project benefitting our entire community.

Sincerely,

Geoff Larson  
Vice Chair, Utilities Advisory Board  
Co-Founder, Alaskan Brewing Company

*CC: The Honorable Senator Dan Sullivan, The Honorable Representative Nick Begich*