

**From:** Moser, Amanda K. <[Amanda.K.Moser@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Amanda.K.Moser@anchorageak.gov)>

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**To:** AssemblyMembers <[MASAssemblyMembers@anchorageak.gov](mailto:MASAssemblyMembers@anchorageak.gov)>

**Cc:** Jones, Barbara A. <[Barbara.A.Jones@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Barbara.A.Jones@anchorageak.gov)>; Scovic, Katherine E.

<[Katherine.Scovic@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Katherine.Scovic@anchorageak.gov)>; Wilber, Berett A. <[Berett.Wilber@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Berett.Wilber@anchorageak.gov)>; LaFrance, Suzanne M. <[Suzanne.M.LaFrance@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Suzanne.M.LaFrance@anchorageak.gov)>

**Subject:** Mayor LaFrance submitted a comment to the BIA for the open comment period of the Environmental Assessment of Eklutna Village Gaming Facility Project

Good Afternoon Assembly Members –

Here's the statement Mayor LaFrance submitted to the BIA today for the open comment period of the [Environmental Assessment of the Eklutna Village Gaming Facility Project](#).

The Municipality of Anchorage values and respects our government-to-government relationship with the Native Village of Eklutna.

The Native Village of Eklutna's goal to develop a gaming facility on its land is clearly within its right to facilitate self-sufficiency, self-determination, and economic development under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The Native Village of Eklutna has a long history of excellent stewardship of the land and water in the Municipality, including salmon streams, and the project's Environmental Assessment reflects that, raising no significant concerns.

The Environmental Assessment also shows the project will create shared economic benefits, including more than 450 jobs during construction that will add \$45.8 million to our local economy. Once operating, the project will support 419 workers and generate \$67.6 million in economic value. Positive economic spill-over effects would boost surrounding businesses, hotels, and workers.

We'd like to formally share our support for the Native Village of Eklutna as it exercises its sovereignty and pursues economic development.

-Mayor Suzanne LaFrance