



North Slope Borough

Honorable Mayor Josiah Patkotak
P.O. Box 69
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Honorable Commissioner John Boyle
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1360
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557

State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Honorable Commissioner Ryan Anderson
P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Ak 99811-2500

April 22, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) Project – PEL Triangle Community Road Study

Dear Mayor Patkotak, DOT&PF Commissioner Anderson, and DNR Commissioner Boyle,

On behalf of the Utqiagvik Tri-Lateral Committee—a collaborative leadership body formed between the City of Utqiagvik, the Native Village of Barrow, and the Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation—we write to express our strong support for the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) Project and, specifically, the Programmatic Environmental Linkages (PEL) Triangle Community Road Study.

The Tri-Lateral Committee was created to foster unified decision-making and advocacy for the well-being and advancement of Utqiagvik and its residents. We work together to address a broad range of community priorities, including infrastructure, subsistence protection, transportation, and economic opportunity.

This proposed project—connecting Utqiagvik, Atkasuk, and Wainwright—presents a meaningful opportunity to improve access to critical resources, increase regional



collaboration, and enhance the quality of life for our communities. The proposed road system supports our shared goals of improving health and safety, ensuring continued subsistence access, and promoting strategic, locally supported development in the region.

We commend the efforts of the ASTAR initiative and fully support the pursuit of funding, including through the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program. This project exemplifies the kind of cooperative and forward-thinking planning our committee stands behind.

We thank you for your attention and for considering this important step toward a more connected and resilient Arctic.

Quyanaq,

Utqiagvik Tri-Lateral Committee:

City of Utqiagvik
Elizabeth Asisaun Toovak
Mayor

4/22/25
Date

Native Village of Barrow
Fannie Suvlu
Executive Director

4/22/25
Date

Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation
Dr. Pearl K. Brower
President/CEO

4/22/25
Date