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April 3, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Reinstatement of Funds for Shakwak Highway Agreement

Dear Chairman Boxer and Chairman Shuster:

The Alaska Travel Industry Association, a broad-based membership tourism trade association, respectfully requests the reinstatement of the US and Canadian Shakwak Agreement in the MAP-21 transportation bill. This agreement had been in place since 1976 and allows for upgrades on the Alaska Highway connecting the continental United States to Alaska. The governments of Canada and Yukon Territory are responsible for 75% of the costs.

Maintenance of this highway is critical for Alaska tourism. In the summer of 2013, over 47,000 visitors used the Alcan Highway to access various tourism destinations within Alaska. Highway tourism is important enough for the health of our industry that for over 20 years Alaska has partnered with four Canadian jurisdictions in marketing highway travel to Alaska as the "Ultimate North American Road Trip."

The Shakwak Highway Project is the result of a bilateral accord between the United States and Canada and is a leading example of cooperation between our two countries. Restoring this funding will continue a successful partnership to improve and maintain the Alaska Highway.

Respectfully,

Julie Saupe
Board Chair

Sarah Leonard
President & CEO

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Representative Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell