



February 17, 2026

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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Congressionally Directed Spending – Gateway Recreation Center Expansion

Dear Senator Murkowski,

On behalf of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's request for Congressionally Directed Spending for the expansion of the Gateway Recreation Center.

Since 1997, the Gateway Recreation Center has served Ketchikan's only public facility dedicated to comprehensive recreation, fitness, and youth programming. Today, demand has exceeded available space, limited program access and reducing the facility's ability to fully serve the community. The proposed 12,155-square-foot expansion will increase fitness capacity, add multi-purpose program space, and strengthen the facility's ability to serve residents and community needs.

This project will also directly support workforce participation by expanding the Borough's Summer Camp program, which provides dependable childcare during the peak tourism season. Access to childcare is a critical factor enabling parents and caregivers to participate in the workforce, particularly in a seasonal economy like Ketchikan's. Expanded program capacity will support local businesses by improving labor availability while continuing to provide valuable employment opportunities for local youth.

Investments in facilities like the Gateway Recreation Center strengthen community health, workforce stability, and economic resilience. These improvements will help ensure Ketchikan remains a strong, vibrant community for residents, employers, and future investment.

The Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your support for this important project and appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,
Michelle O'Brien
Executive Director
Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

