



February 25, 2026

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

**Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce Support for FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Priorities**

**Dear Senator Murkowski,**

On behalf of the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce and our business community, I am writing to express our strong support for the following FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending priorities. These projects represent the Chamber's highest federal infrastructure priorities and are essential to protecting economic stability, workforce mobility, and regional connectivity in Southeast Alaska.

- **Ketchikan International Airport Electrical Upgrade**  
Reliable electrical service to Ketchikan International Airport is essential to maintaining safe flight operations, protecting regional commerce, and ensuring uninterrupted access to medical care and essential goods. Replacing the aging submarine electrical cable will ensure dependable power for FAA-regulated runway lighting, navigation, and communications systems.
- **Oral Freeman Ferry Replacement Design, Engineering, and Feasibility Study**  
The airport ferry is the sole surface transportation link to Ketchikan International Airport, making its long-term reliability essential to workforce access, tourism, freight movement, and emergency services. Planning for the replacement of the aging *M/V Oral Freeman* will protect regional mobility, support economic continuity, and ensure dependable access to this critical transportation hub.
- **Gateway Recreation Center Expansion**  
Expanding access to reliable childcare through increased recreation center capacity will directly support workforce participation during Ketchikan's peak tourism season. This project will enable more residents to participate in the workforce while supporting local employers and families.
- **Rotary Beach Phase II Improvements**  
Protecting and improving public access to waterfront infrastructure strengthens community livability and preserves amenities that support Ketchikan's visitor economy. Stabilizing this critical access point will ensure continued safe use for residents and visitors.
- **Forest Park Wastewater Main Replacement**  
Reliable wastewater infrastructure protects public health and safeguards marine waters that are foundational to Ketchikan's fishing, tourism, and maritime industries. Replacing failing sewer mains will protect essential services and environmental quality.



### 2026 Officers

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### Chamber Staff

**Michelle O'Brien**

Executive Director

Reliable infrastructure is the foundation of a strong economy. These projects represent prudent, forward-looking investments that will protect essential services, strengthen workforce participation, and support Southeast Alaska's long-term economic resilience. The Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your support for these critical priorities and appreciates your continued leadership and advocacy on behalf of our community.

*Michelle O'Brien*

Sincerely,

**Michelle O'Brien**

**Executive Director**

**Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce**

