



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FRIENDS OF WEST SUSITNA SUPPORTS NEW PLAN TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC,
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY REVAMPED WEST SUSITNA ACCESS
PROJECT**

SKWENTNA, JULY 28, 2023 — Friends of West Susitna applauds the Dunleavy Administration's announcement to revamp the West Susitna Access Road project. The new plan maintains the commitment to open the area to economic development in the state's fastest-growing region while providing public access and enhanced recreational opportunities for Alaskans and visitors.

Under the newly released proposal, the Department of Transportation is to construct access to the west side of the Susitna River, to provide public access. The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is developing a toll road for resource access and development similar to the highly successful Red Dog Mine toll road. The region's resource potential is well-documented, including in the State of Alaska's 2013 West Susitna Reconnaissance Study, which outlines the vast mineral potential of the area.

"We welcome today's announcement and thank Governor Dunleavy and his team for prioritizing construction of this vitally important road," said Cindi Herman, chair of the Friends of West Susitna non-profit. "Our organization recognizes the incredible resource and recreational opportunities offered in the area, but they must first be made more accessible. We urge all Alaskans to express support for this crucial phase of the project's development and to get involved in the public process."

Public comments can be submitted via email at STIP@publicinput.com, through text at 855-925-2801, or via phone voice message at 855-925-2801, using the code 2191.

Contact: Cindi Herman, chair, Friends of West Susitna: cindiherman2007@gmail.com

About Friends of West Susitna:

Friends of West Susitna is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible development and recreational opportunities in the Susitna River region for the benefit of all Alaskans.

###

