



Office of the Mayor

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April 18, 2022

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Murkowski:

I am writing to urge you to support the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)'s request for our "Municipal Composting Facility Design and Construction" project. Along with my fellow Assembly members, we have identified solid waste as one of the primary challenges we face as a community. From the 2022 Assembly Goals:

Assembly Goal 5. Sustainable Community – Juneau will maintain a resilient social, economic, and environmental habitat for existing population and future generations

5a. Develop a Zero Waste or Waste Reduction Plan

The Assembly has appropriated \$100,000 to begin development of a Zero Waste plan in FY23. This is in addition to \$50,000 dedicated to supporting composting efforts specifically.

Our local landfill will reach capacity within the next 20-25 years. Because of our cool, wet climate and lack of suitable land for a new landfill, our community will likely need to start shipping garbage south -- an expensive prospect. In addition, the existing landfill produces significant odors which have become a source of concern for the community. By increasing our local capacity to compost organic and food scraps through construction of a commercial-scale composting facility, we can remove a significant portion of the odor-producing wastes that go into the landfill and extend the life of the landfill in the process.

Thank you for helping support our effort to turn organic "wastes" into a locally produced resource.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau

cc: City and Borough of Juneau Assembly