

# Central Peninsula Multi-Use Facility Committee

August 3, 2009

Honorable Pete Sprague  
Honorable Gary Knopp  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly  
144 North Binkley Street  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Assemblymen Sprague and Knopp:

First of all we want to express our sincere thanks to you for sponsoring the following ordinances:

- Ordinance 2009-32: *Establishing the Central Peninsula Multi-Use Facility Service Area.*
- Ordinance 2009-35: *Providing for Submission to the Qualified Voters of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Central Peninsula Multi-Use Facility Service Area the Question of the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Central Peninsula Multi-Use Facility Service Area in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not-To-Exceed \$25,500,000 to Pay a Portion of the Costs of the Capital Improvements, at an Election in and for the Central Peninsula Multi-Use Facility Service Area.*

As you know, our group has been meeting since June of last year (2008) to advance a vision and plan for building a fully enclosed Multi-Use Facility in the Central Kenai Peninsula. As envisioned the facility would be large enough to house a full-size football/soccer field surrounded by a full eight lane running track, with spectator seating on both sides. The facility would be available for a multitude of sporting (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track and field, running, golf, basketball, golf, walking) and community (trade shows, sports shows, community fairs, plays, concerts) events on a year- round basis.

All of our meetings were open to anyone interested enough to attend and generated a great deal of enthusiasm, discussion and support for such a facility. Our initial goal was to get enough information together to generate dialogue, build support in our communities, and have it placed on the ballot for consideration by voters in October of 2009. We held several community events to raise funds for a feasibility study we felt was necessary to further define the project and develop cost estimates. Unfortunately, the logistics of gathering surveys from interested user groups and scheduling group discussions to further refine the scope of the project took longer than anticipated and resulted in a delay in getting the completed feasibility study needed for drafting the

necessary ordinances to meet the deadline for getting the issue on the ballot for October of this year.

By rushing things, perhaps too much, we managed to meet the deadline for consideration by the Assembly but do not feel that we have given either the public or the Assembly the adequate time necessary to deliberate on a project of this magnitude. We simply could not anticipate all of the questions that arose during the public hearing process and, in some cases, were not able to provide adequate answers.

Additionally, the economy has significantly changed over the last year leading to a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety. While other options, including less expensive options, would be available if the bond ordinance were to pass, we believe it will be difficult to clearly articulate the other options available and *still* ask voters to approve bonding authority for up to \$25,500,000.

We would like to request that Ordinance 2009-32 and Ordinance 2009-35 be postponed by the Assembly and not placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters in October this year.

Our enthusiasm for the project has not diminished and we intend to continue building on our efforts up to this point. We believe we can do a better job of engaging the public in our communities, getting answers to some of the questions raised, developing other options for consideration and building support for our vision of a Multi Use Facility for the central Kenai Peninsula. It will, however, take additional time.

Thank you again for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kathy Gensel  
Co-Chair



Dale Sandahl  
Co-Chair