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MEMORANDUM

February 18, 2007

To: Sen. Bert Stedman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee

From: Sen. Joe Thomas
Sen. Kim Elton
Sen. Charlie Huggins
Sen. Donny Olson

Re: Statewide Shooting Ranges

We respectfully request you consider including in the capital budget a statewide package of shooting range investments. These projects range from completing partially finished state-owned hunter education facilities to rebuilding a shooting range destroyed by fire and selecting sites for new, safe ranges in rapidly growing areas.

Before it burned down, the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association facility was home to Fairbanks area youth shooting teams, among others. The association's insurance policy will not cover the full costs of rebuilding.

Demand for shooting areas in the Matanuska-Susitna valley is large and growing with the population. The borough selected safe locations for shooting ranges, and this funding would begin design and construction of these much-needed facilities.

* [The Juneau Hunter Education Facility is half finished. Finishing the floor, adding archery lanes and a classroom will complete the facility and bring vastly more users in the door without added staff, reducing the annual general fund needed.]

The shooting range owned by the City of Nome, like the Ketchikan Rod & Gun Club, is in need improvements to promote safety and public use.

Indoor restrooms and berm improvements at the Rabbit Creek Range in Anchorage are included as part of a governor's capital budget request, so we do not include them here.

The attached pages provide you two options for including the package in the capital budget: either as individual projects or a single, cohesive language item. We appreciate your consideration of this statewide package.

Section x: The sum of \$1,092,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the following agencies, in the following amounts, for hunter education facilities and safe shooting ranges.

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development:

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association - Facility Replacement
Ketchikan Rod & Gun Club - Facility Improvements

\$220,000
\$ 44,000

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Design & Construct Safe Shooting Ranges
City of Nome - Shooting Range Modifications

\$340,000
\$150,000

Department of Fish and Game:

Juneau Hunter Education Facility Archery Range and Classroom

\$338,000