



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
John MacKinnon, Commissioner

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January 18, 2019

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building, Rm 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

Thank you for your letter regarding the January 1, 2019 landslide on Kasaan Road. Below is an update regarding the status of the situation as we know it and the entities working collaboratively to remedy the situation.

The Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs is currently working with the cities of Thorne Bay and Kasaan on Prince of Wales Island as they deal with the landslide that has damaged the South Thorne Bay/Kasaan Road, blocking access to the community of South Thorne Bay and Kasaan. The cities and the Organized Village of Kasaan are working to improve a United States Forest Service (USFS) logging road to utilize it as an emergency bypass route. The USFS has performed a geologic survey of the landslide path and has provided recommendations on how to proceed with debris removal, repairing power lines, and how to stabilize the area in order to perform a detailed damage assessment of the road surface and prism.

Given this is not a state owned or maintained road, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) current participation is to assist with a preliminary damage assessment and to help develop initial cost estimates in coordination with both cities and the Tribe.

The DOT&PF, Office of Management and Budget, and other administration staff will work with Governor Dunleavy to determine what, if any, state assistance is needed to help address the cleanup and remediation efforts. This process may include a meeting of the Disaster Policy Cabinet to formulate a recommendation and determine if a disaster declaration is appropriate.

Once more information is available and some of these outstanding items have been resolved, we will provide an update to your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John MacKinnon".

John MacKinnon
Commissioner

Cc: Donna Arduin, Office of Management and Budget Director, Office of the Governor
Suzanne Cunningham, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Honorable Torrence Saxe, Commissioner, Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs