

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2023

Dear Anchorage Assembly:

We are writing in support of renaming the Port of Alaska to the Don Young Port of Anchorage in honor of a stalwart advocate for Alaska, the late Congressman Don Young.

Throughout his nearly five decades of service, Congressman Young was a champion for Alaska in Washington, D.C. He shepherded critical legislation into law, became Dean of the House, and longest-serving Republican of all time. He worked tirelessly to bring countless federal investments advancing crucial projects and economic opportunities for Alaskans, to include furthering the Port of Alaska.

Before being elected to public office, he was intimately connected to our ports and waterways as a tug and barge operator along the Yukon River. He saw firsthand the problems the problems our residents experience with a lack of adequate infrastructure, but also could see the potential economic development that could be achieved if they were given the resources to put ideas into action. Throughout his 49 years of service, Congressman Young remained focused on addressing the crucial infrastructure needs throughout our great state. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, he authored the 2005 surface transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, rewriting our nation's laws to prioritize funding for Alaska – including directing significant funding to what was then known as the Port of Anchorage.

As Alaska's most versatile port, the Port of Alaska handles nearly three quarters of inbound cargo for the state and is designated a Strategic Seaport for the Department of Defense. The port is vital in providing 90% of Alaska everyday necessities like food, consumer goods, building materials, and cars. Interior Alaska communities, military facilities, mining operations, and rural Alaska villages rely on the Port for consistent access to critical supplies and goods. Understanding that major investments in infrastructure are needed in Alaska, including at the Port of Alaska, Congressman Young rallied key support in the House to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, securing billions of dollars to provide critical support to big and small ports throughout Alaska.

It is only fitting that a port of this importance to the state of Alaska is dedicated to the legacy of our larger-than-life Congressman of 49 years. Renaming the Port of Alaska to the Don Young Port of Anchorage will fittingly honor Congressman Young for his lifetime of steadfast loyalty and service to Alaska and the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator



Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola
Representative for All Alaska