

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

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November 19, 2010

Frank Roppel, Chair, AHFC Board of Directors
P.O. Box 101020
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1020

Dear Mr. Roppel:

The Alaska Commission on Aging strongly supports AHFC's proposal to designate the Chugach Manor as an "elder only" facility because Alaska is the state with the fastest growing senior population in the nation. According to reports from AHFC, waitlists for senior housing continue to grow, with some seniors waiting *years* for a unit to become available. The opportunities for older Alaskans (age 62 and older) to find appropriate housing are already limited with the demand for appropriate housing far exceeding the supply in many communities, including Anchorage. Clearly, more affordable and accessible senior housing is required in Alaska to meet the growing demand of the aging population, not less.

Based on public comment heard at the Commission's meetings, the lifestyle differences between young and elderly populations are profound. Chugach Manor was originally designed as an elder-only housing facility. Many of the residents in Chugach Manor are elderly and frail. They favor a calm, quiet living environment which clashes with the more active, late-night lifestyle preferred by some younger residents. When a serious conflict occurs, there are few resources available to resolve those differences. As a result, some of the senior residents feel anxious, stressed, and fearful living in the mixed use facilities. They remain isolated in their apartments, a lifestyle that negatively impacts their physical and mental health.

The Commission whole-heartedly supports the elderly-only designation at Chugach Manor. We thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for your efforts to help ensure that older Alaskans live in a safe, supportive housing community.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Dan Fauske, CEO, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Jim Gurke, Director, AHFC Public Housing
Jim McCall, Program Officer, AHFC Senior Housing

Senator Johnny Ellis
Representative Les Gara