

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the application of the Homer Society of Natural History, Inc. dba Pratt Museum for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests. Thank you for your dedicated service to our state and nation, and for bringing the Pratt Museum Roof System Replacement Project appropriations request forward.

The national award-winning Pratt Museum is dedicated to the exploration of people and place in the Kachemak Bay region, one of the richest biological and cultural crossroads in Alaska. Built as Homer's centennial project in 1967 and opening in 1968, the Pratt has become one of the nation's leading community museums. Partnerships with such entities as the National Park Service, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and the Smithsonian Institution have propelled the Pratt's exhibits and programs far beyond the Museum's walls and prestigious grants from the nation's leading museum, arts, and humanities institutions have underscored the groundbreaking work of this small museum, which has always been a source of pride for the local community. The vitality of this institution contributes tangibly to local quality of life, helping make Homer a place where people want to live, work, and play.

{insert your story here}

The Pratt's current facility is a building that has undergone multiple renovations since opening, none of which have addressed the compromised roof system. Over time, the roof has deteriorated to the extreme that visitors have to traverse buckets in every gallery, and at times water splashes on the exhibits and display cases. Leaks also occur consistently over the elevator which impacts use, and in office spaces where computers and technology are located. Staff must scale the roof during the winter to shovel after every significant snowfall. **The roof must be replaced**, and The Homer Society of Natural History, Inc. is embarking on a vigorous campaign to invest in building upgrades that make the Museum safe, functional, and sustainable.

I urge the committee to support this request and help ensure the success of the Pratt Museum Roof System Replacement Project, which will allow the Pratt to continue to be a resource for learning and a place of meaningful conversation decades into the future.

Respectfully,

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