



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

April 30, 2020

Ms. Joanne M. Throwe, Chair
Environmental Finance Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (MC4204M)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Throwe:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13, 2020, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Andrew Wheeler about the Environmental Finance Advisory Board's February 12, 2020, consultation with the EPA on financing and governance options for the Backhaul Alaska Program. Administrator Wheeler has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

I would like to thank EFAB for the thoughtful consultation to assist the Backhaul Alaska organization become fiscally sound and resilient to challenges. I know my staff and our partners in Alaska gained insight and new approaches from EFAB's engagement. My staff will continue to work with the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce and its Backhaul Alaska Advisory Committee to advance the program and they will be reviewing EFAB's recommendations for incorporation into the Backhaul Alaska implementation plan.

In addition, I will use EFAB's recommendations in future discussions with the State of Alaska and other Federal agencies on sustainable financing strategies for Backhaul Alaska. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic is currently straining economic resources in Alaska which makes this a particularly challenging time to convene discussions on generating funds for this new program. Until the timing is more favorable, we will explore how EPA funds can continue to support program development as Backhaul Alaska transitions from pilot phase to full implementation. In time, I look forward to working with our partners to develop long-term sustained funding for the program.

Again, thank you for EFAB's consultation and recommendations. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact me or contact Tim Hamlin, Director, Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division, at (206) 553-1563 or hamlin.tim@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Hladick,
Christopher W.

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Hladick, Christopher W.
Date: 2020.04.30
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Chris Hladick
Regional Administrator