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November 14, 2012

Municipality of Anchorage
Attn: Mayor Dan Sullivan
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mayor Sullivan:

This letter is written in support of the proposed construction of a public indoor tennis facility in Anchorage, Alaska. I had the privilege of visiting Anchorage this summer to host town hall meetings to gain a better understanding of the needs of the tennis community. I learned two important things:

- 1.) The tennis community in Anchorage is vibrant.
- 2.) The number one need of the tennis community is public indoor court space.

Overall, tennis is a growing sport. The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association has been tracking participation trends for all sporting activities for decades. Their 2011 report cited that tennis participation is up 45.6% over the last 10 years making it the fastest growing traditional sport in the country, including soccer, baseball, basketball and football. It is my office's experience that this national trend applies to the Municipality of Anchorage as well. Our internal statistics suggest that there are roughly 11,000 recreational tennis players in the Anchorage area.

Unfortunately, the Anchorage tennis population is tremendously underserved. Our records indicate that there are a total of nine indoor tennis courts in Anchorage making the player to court ratio 1:1222, which is one of the highest in the country. Further exasperating the issue is the fact that these nine indoor courts are operated by private clubs. In fact, Anchorage is the only metropolitan area in our region that does not have a public indoor tennis facility. Therefore, the sport of tennis is mostly inaccessible to the general public, especially during the colder months. National trends suggest that over 70% of all tennis play is recreational in nature and played at public facilities.

In summary, USTA/PNW strongly endorses the proposed public indoor tennis facility in Anchorage. The Anchorage tennis community is vibrant and the need for the facility is evident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew C. Warren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew C. Warren
Executive Director

Tennis: It's Your Game!