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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denali Commission and Alaska State Legislature Open “Alaska Clearinghouse”

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The Denali Commission in partnership with the Alaska State Legislature and the Alaska Federal Executive Association have created an Alaska Clearinghouse for the coordination of information and opportunities created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

“Many of Alaska’s communities have had unemployment rates of over 50% for decades, limited economic opportunity, energy costs which are in excess of 275% the national average and other unique challenges for a long time. As envisioned by Congress and President Obama, the ARRA is an opportunity to jumpstart the economy in many of our communities, create and save jobs and address long neglected challenges so Alaskans can thrive in the 21st century,” George Cannelos, Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission said.

The ARRA imposes short deadlines and new levels of accountability and transparency on all federal agencies and ARRA funding recipients. The Alaska Clearinghouse will assist in accomplishing the goals of the Act.

The Clearinghouse will maintain a website located at www.denali.gov with information regarding funding opportunities and eligibility requirements received from federal agencies. The Clearinghouse will maintain e-mail distribution lists (listserves), frequently asked questions, and a calendar of events and deadlines which will assist in communicating opportunities to eligible Alaska organizations. The Alaska Clearinghouse is comprised of staff members from the Denali Commission, Alaska State Legislature and potentially other Federal Agencies, who will be working out of the Denali Commission office in Anchorage, Alaska. Staff will be available for questions on a toll-free number of 1-888-480-4321. Because of the short deadlines outlined in the ARRA, the Alaska Clearinghouse is intended to be a short term effort and is not expected to continue no longer than six months.

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