

Unified Command

Dec 2025-Jan 2026 Winter Storm



January 6th, 2026

Bryan Fisher
Director, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
State of Alaska

Subject: Immediate Request for State Assistance for the December 2025-January 2026 Winter Storm

Director Fisher,

On behalf of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), in unified coordination with the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), we formally jointly request State of Alaska assistance in response to the imminent threat of a record-level snowfall and cold temperatures caused by the December 2025-January 2026 Winter Storm (the "Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026 Winter Storm"). Tlingit & Haida and CBJ continue to work together to address the ongoing threat from the Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026 Winter Storm, however, our governments have met and exceeded our respective capacities to respond to this disaster and require additional assistance.

This letter serves as the joint emergency disaster declaration, issued today by Tlingit & Haida and the CBJ, as a coordinated measure to protect life, property, and critical infrastructure. Even with the on-going coordinated efforts of both governments and partner agencies working in unison and pooling resources to address disaster conditions throughout the year, we are unable to fully address community impacts caused by the Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026 Winter Storm.

In alignment with our respective governmental authorities and objectives outlined in this declaration, we are requesting the following:

1. That the Governor declare a State of Emergency State Disaster Declaration and provide State assistance as may be available and to request assistance from Federal agencies where State resources may not be adequate.
2. Provide emergency response equipment and personnel to enable rapid deployment as conditions change, including, but not limited to, resources for:
 - a. Critical public infrastructure snow load clearing and operational support;
 - b. Fire hydrant, drainage, and stormwater infrastructure clearing and support; and
 - c. Avalanche monitoring, forecasting and mitigation support.
3. Amplify and coordinate public alerts to ensure consistent, timely information for residents in vulnerable areas.
4. Assist in securing continued State and Federal funding to sustain response, and recovery operations as needed.
5. Enable implementation of emergency protective orders as needed to safeguard the public and property.

As stated above, the Dec. 2025-Jan. 2026 Winter Storm has exceeded the response and resource capacities of both Tlingit & Haida and CBJ. Prolonged heavy snowfall and extreme cold temperatures have created conditions that surpass our ability to fully address the critical capacity needs within our jurisdictions. Both governments have been operating at maximum capacity for an extended period and now require additional assistance to adequately support and protect our shared citizenry. We appreciate your attention to this request and stand ready to coordinate closely with your team to safeguard our community.

Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson, President
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Beth Weldon, Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau