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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2003

No. 03-087

Murkowski Appoints Aviation Advisory Board
Richard Wien Named Chair

JUNEAU - Governor Frank H. Murkowski today appointed nine members to the newly formed Aviation Advisory Board to the Department of Transportation. Murkowski also named Richard Wien as Chair of the Aviation Board. The other members of the Board are Kenneth Lythgoe, James Dodson, Bob Jacobsen, Daniel Klaes, Paul Landis, Felix Maguire, Wilbur O'Brien and Michael Salazar.

The Aviation Advisory Board was established as a temporary interim board by Administrative Orders 204 and 206. The Board's job is to provide input on aviation issues to the Commissioner of Transportation Mike Barton. "While transportation for many Alaskans includes roads, it often times includes travel by air. The members of this advisory board have been tasked with an important duty, and will advise Commissioner Barton on the many issues that face Alaska aviation," said Murkowski. "I am confident under the leadership of Richard Wien, whose family has helped build the foundation for air travel here, the board members will make a positive contribution to aviation transportation in Alaska."

Aviation Advisory Board Chair Richard Wien has a long and distinguished record with Alaska air transportation. Hailing from Fairbanks, Wien attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and has worked as pilot and director of bush operations for Wien Alaska Airlines. He has also served as Executive-vice President of ERA Aviation. Wien has been recognized by the Alaska Air Carriers with the Arlo Livingston Service to Alaska Aviation Award.

Anchorage resident Kenneth Lythgoe will represent the non-airline tenants at the Anchorage International Airport and is the general manager of Williams Lynxs Alaska Cargo Port. He currently oversees the construction of an air cargo facility at the Anchorage International Airport. He received a business degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

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James Dodson of Fairbanks will represent the Mayors of Fairbanks and the North Star Borough governments. He is the former president, general manager and pilot for Frontier Flying Service, Inc. He is also the past chairman of the Alaska Air Carriers Association, and a graduate of Lathrop High School and the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Dodson is currently the owner and manager of Dodson Development.

Bob Jacobsen of Juneau will be the regional air carriers representative and has been president of Wings of Alaska since 1982. He was president of the Alaska Air Carriers Association in 1986 and graduated with a political science degree from the University of Oregon in 1977.

Dan Klaes of Bettles was appointed as the unorganized Borough representative. Klaes is the Mayor of Bettles and has over 30 years aviation experience in the state including as chief pilot and director of operations for several air carriers. He was also chief pilot for Pacific Alaska Airlines and flew the DEW (Distant Early Warning) line for the U.S. Air Force. Klaes has also been a consultant for Kennicott mining regarding worldwide aviation operations. Klaes also owns Bettles Air, an air taxi service. He also serves on the aviation advisory board for the North Star Borough and has worked with the State of Alaska promoting international tourism development.

Paul Landis of Anchorage will represent the Alaska International Airport System operating agreement signatories.

Felix Maguire of Anchorage will represent the Alaska Airmen's Association. Maguire flew fighter jets and transport aircraft in the Far East based in Singapore and the Near East based in Cyprus, as a member of the British Royal Air Force. He was chief pilot for Alascom, Inc., AT&T and ACS, where he flew to most of Alaska's rural areas as well as the Russian Far East. He has more than 22,000 hours of flight time, of which more than 12,000 were flown in Alaska.

Wilbur O'Brien of Anchorage was appointed to represent the Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage on the Aviation Advisory Board. O'Brien has worked with ERA Aviation since 1975, as a pilot and more recently as president from 1991 through 1993. Currently he is an ERA board member and serves as a consultant on air transportation issues.

Ketchikan resident Michael Salazar will be the Alaska Air Carriers representative and holds a commercial airplane and helicopter pilots license. Salazar is a former president of the Alaska Air Carriers Associations. He has over 18,000 hours of flight time in helicopter and fixed wing aircraft, with over 14,000 hours in Alaska. He has also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in aerial flight as well as an Air Medal with valor for heroism in aerial flight. He was recently president of Ketchikan Air Service from 1969 through 1997 and was featured in Hispanic Business Magazine in 1991.

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