



INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2024

TO: Julie Kitka
Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

Micaela Fowler
State Co-Chair, Deputy Commissioner for the State of Alaska

Alicia Amberg
Executive Director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Ben Mallott
President, Alaska Federation of Natives

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Pat Pitney
President, University of Alaska

Joelle Hall
Executive President, Alaska State AFL-CIO

FROM: Roderick H. Fillinger
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Results of the Audit of the FY 2024 Denali Commission Financial
Statement Audit Report (Report No. OIG-AR-2025-02)

I am pleased to provide you with the attached audit report in which SB & Company, LLC (SBC), an independent public accounting firm, presented an unmodified opinion on the Denali Commission's fiscal year 2024 financial statements. SBC performed the audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

In its audit of the Denali Commission, SBC reported the following:

- The Commission's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024, and 2023, were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- Identified no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the limited procedures they performed; and
- Identified no instances of reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2024 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements tested.

My office oversaw the audit performance, including the review of SBC's report and related documentation and inquiries of its representatives. This review disclosed no instances where SBC did not comply, in all material respects, with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. As differentiated from an audit in accordance with these standards, my review was not intended to enable me to express any opinion on the Denali Commission's financial statements.

Therefore, I do not express any opinion on the Denali Commission's financial statements, conclusions about the effectiveness of internal controls, or conclusions on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. SBC is solely responsible for the attached report, dated November 2, 2023, and the conclusions expressed in it.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies the Denali Commission extended to both SBC and my office during the audit. If you wish to discuss the contents of this report, please call me at (907) 271-3500.

Attachment

cc: John Whittington, General Counsel
Beth Flowers, Senior Financial Officer

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Office of the Inspector General and the Denali Commission

In our audits of the fiscal years 2024 and 2023 financial statements of the Denali Commission (the Commission, we found:

- The Commission's financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- No material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting based on the limited procedures we performed; and
- no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2024 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements we tested.

The following sections discuss in more detail (1) our report on the financial statements, which includes required supplementary information (RSI) and other information included with the financial statements; (2) our report on internal control over financial reporting; (3) our report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and (4) agency comments

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion on the Financial Statements

In accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we have audited the Commission's financial statements. The Commission's financial statements comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2024 and 2023; the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended; and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the Commission's financial position as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, and its net costs of operations, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the fiscal years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Commission and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Commission's management is responsible for (1) the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (2) preparing, measuring, and presenting the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; (3) preparing and presenting other information included in the Commission's agency financial report, and ensuring the consistency of that information with the audited financial statements and the RSI; and (4) designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit of the financial statements conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement or a material weakness when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements in order to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to our audit of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Perform other procedures we consider necessary in the circumstances.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control–related matters that we identified during the financial statement audit.

Required Supplementary Information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) require that the RSI be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by FASAB, which considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to the auditor’s inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the financial statements, in order to report omissions or material departures from FASAB guidelines, if any, identified by these limited procedures. We did not audit and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures we applied do not provide sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance

Other Information

The Commission’s other information contains a wide range of information, some of which is not directly related to the financial statements. This information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or the RSI. Management is responsible for the other accompanying information included in the Commissions agency financial report. The other accompany information comprises the Analysis of Systems, Controls, and Compliance, Denali Commission FY 2024 Work Plan, Denali Commission FY 2022-2026 IJA Work Plan, and Other Accompanying Information but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In connection with our audits of the Commission’s financial statements, we considered the Commission’s internal control over financial reporting, consistent with our auditor’s responsibility discussed below.

Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described below, and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies or to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Basis for Results of Our Consideration of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We performed our procedures related to the Commission's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards.

Responsibilities of Management for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The Commission's management is responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the Commission's financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, we considered the Commission's internal control relevant to the financial statement audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. We are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not consider all internal controls relevant to operating objectives, such as those controls relevant to preparing performance information and ensuring efficient operations.

Definition and Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

An entity's internal control over financial reporting is a process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, the objectives of which are to provide reasonable assurance that (1) transactions are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and (2) transactions are executed in accordance with provisions of applicable laws, including those governing the use of budget authority, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements due to fraud or error.

Intended Purpose of Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and the results of our procedures, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, this report on internal control over financial reporting is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

In connection with our audits of the Commission's financial statements, we tested compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements consistent with our auditor's responsibilities discussed below.

Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our tests for compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed no instances of noncompliance for fiscal year 2023 that would be reportable under U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Basis for Results of Our Tests for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

We performed our tests of compliance in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for Tests of Compliance section below.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The Commission management is responsible for complying with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission.

Auditor's Responsibilities for Tests of Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

Our responsibility is to test compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Commission's financial statements, and to perform certain other limited procedures. Accordingly, we did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements applicable to the Commission. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests.



Intended Purpose of Report on Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance with selected provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards in considering compliance. Accordingly, this report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements is not suitable for any other purpose.

Agency Comments

In commenting on a draft of this report, the Commission commented on the results discussed within this opinion. The complete text of the Commission's response is reprinted in appendix II. We have not performed any audit procedures on the Commission's response and take no responsibility for the response. The findings stated within this opinion remain as stated.

Owings Mills, Maryland
November 7, 2024

SB + Company, LLC