



March 7, 2017

Senator Anna MacKinnon
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Rm 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Senate Bill 70

Dear Senator MacKinnon and Senator Hoffman:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) supports the concepts contained within Senate Bill 70.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1952 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

Alaska is blessed in so many ways, including the resources needed to fix our fiscal problems. Our financial reserves are most certainly under strain and we can't live off savings forever. But our resources are considerable and by working swiftly, collaboratively and wisely, we can close our fiscal gap while encouraging future investment. By cutting the cost of government (living within our means), restructuring the Permanent Fund to protect the dividend and include controlled use of the earnings reserve account to pay for government services, and establishing a statutory appropriation limit will make Alaska stable and predictable again.

The Alaska Chamber supports the Senate Finance Committee's efforts in tackling Alaska's fiscal problems and we look forward to seeing what is developed through the legislative process.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Curtis W. Thayer'.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO