



March 14, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Rm 429  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Senate Bill 26 – Perm. Fund: Deposits; Dividend; Earnings

Dear Senator Stevens:


As we understand it the major provisions of Senate Bill 70 were amended into Senate Bill 26. With those changes the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) now supports the current version of Senate Bill 26.

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's efforts in tackling Alaska's fiscal problems and we look forward to seeing a fiscal plan passed by the Legislature.

Best regards,

  
Curtis W. Thayer  
President & CEO

*We need this!*