



# 2018 PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS

**65<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
1953\*2018



ALASKA CHAMBER

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 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.

Every year, the Chamber's membership develops positions that reflect the on-the-ground needs of Alaska business. The breadth and diversity of our positions reflect our broad-based membership. This document outlines the Chambers' 2018 positions on critical issues affecting Alaska's business community.

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# 2018 STATE PRIORITIES

## **Support reduction of spending to sustainable levels**

The Alaska Chamber supports reductions to Unrestricted General Fund Spending, including the capital budget and the permanent fund distribution, to \$4.5 billion or less by FY 2019.

## **Support comprehensive workers' compensation reform**

The Alaska Chamber supports enactment of systemic changes to the Alaska workers' compensation insurance statutes to reduce the cost of insurance for employers while emphasizing effective treatment programs that promote injury recovery and the return to full employment of injured workers.

# 2018 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

## **Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas**

The Alaska Chamber strongly supports oil and gas exploration and production in Alaska's federal areas; including the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, NPRA, Cook Inlet, and the 10-02 area of ANWR. The Chamber encourages Congress to enact revenue sharing for Alaska and local communities. The Chamber also encourages the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Legislature and Governor to support and strongly advocate for responsible development of these valuable resources, while the Chamber commits to actively support and participate in the education and advocacy efforts to open these areas.

## **Support repeal or reform of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

The Alaska Chamber supports repeal or reform of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

## BUDGET, TAXES, AND REVENUE

- 1 (S Priority) Support reduction of spending to sustainable levels
- 2 (S) Support a series of annual reductions in the state operating budget and the creation of an endowment/sustainability model or similar framework to use Permanent Fund earnings to support essential state services and protect the PFD Program
- 3 (S) Oppose a natural gas reserves tax
- 4 (S) Support a rigorous but efficient permitting process in Alaska
- 5 (S) Ensure mineral development benefits that should accrue to the entire state are not compromised by municipal or borough Taxation.
- 6 (S) Support a reasonable cruise ship passenger fee level and use of those fees consistent with state and federal law
- 7 (S) Oppose all new unfunded property tax exemptions as introduced on the state level
- 8 (S) Support streamlining fisheries landing tax regulations
- 9 (S) Support and encourage a positive investment climate that provides certainty and stability for statewide oil and gas activities; oppose efforts to increase oil and gas taxes
- 10 (S) Support royalty oil sales

## EMPLOYER RIGHTS

- 11 (S) Support both employers and worker's rights to determine the value of labor
- 12 (S) Support Alaska's employers right to choose to be a marijuana free environment

## FISHERIES AND MARITIME

- 13 (B) Support alternative certification for Alaska seafood
- 14 (S) Support diversification of Alaska's economy including development of a robust mariculture industry
- 15 (S) Support equitable funding and appropriate use of Alaska's 470 Fund

## FORESTRY

- 16 (B) Support for overturning the application of the Roadless Rule in Alaska
- 17 (F) Support for converting two million acres of the Tongass National Forest to a state forest
- 18 (B) Include a renewable energy plan in the Tongass Forest Management Plan

## HEALTH CARE

- 19 (F Priority) Support repeal or reform of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- 20 (S) Support efficiencies and cost effective health benefits
- 21 (S) Support community health center system organization as patient centered medical homes
- 22 (S) Support reform of the 80th percentile rule in 3 AAC 26.110

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- 23 (S Priority) Support comprehensive workers' compensation reform

- 24 (F Priority) Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas including; the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), Cook Inlet, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
- 25 (F) Support the reauthorization of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act
- 26 (F) Support the U.S. Congress to secure a viable, long-term solution for the U.S. Federal Highway Trust Fund
- 27 (S) Support review of State Regulatory and Licensing Policy
- 28 (S) Support keeping Alaska state-chartered financial institutions competitive
- 29 (S) Supports for efforts to reduce the high cost of energy
- 30 (S) Support clarifying Alaska's credit scoring law
- 31 (S) Support a sustainable funding model for Alaska Tourism Marketing: An Alaska Tourism Improvement District (TID)

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- 32 (B) Oppose National Ocean Policy (NOP) implementation in Alaska, particularly Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
- 33 (F) Oppose any further federal land withdrawals in Alaska, other restrictive land management designations, and preemptive actions by regulatory agencies
- 34 (B) Support for litigation reform relating to resource development projects in Alaska
- 35 (B) Oppose new vessel restrictions not based on science about harbor seals
- 36 (F) Support science-based Endangered Species Act listings and delisting

- 37 (F) Support increased responsible natural resource development by improving the efficiencies of the permitting process and gaining access to resources
- 38 (B) Support sustainable sea otter harvest and sale of handicrafts
- 39 (B) Support development of environmental policies based on sound scientific basis over the precautionary method
- 40 (S) Support policies that encourage and protect food freedom in Alaska

## PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

- 41 (B) Support transfer or sale of land to private entities
- 42 (S) Support workforce development to increase the number of qualified employees needed to fill positions in resource industries
- 43 (F) Support Small Business Administration Native 8(a) Contracting Program
- 44 (S) Support to establish a state fund for transportation
- 45 (F) Support the Bypass Mail Program
- 46 (F) Support the expansion of the military presence in Alaska
- 47 (S) Support the University of Alaska
- 48 (S) Support in-state oil refining industry
- 49 (S) Support for privatization of construction projects
- 50 (S) Oppose State Competition with Private Business
- 51 (B) Support foreign and domestic private sector investments in Alaska's resource and manufacturing industries
- 52 (S) Support the Iditarod Trail Committee in its efforts to preserve the rich tradition and future of the Alaska sled dog, mushing, and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

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