



330 Wendell Avenue, Suite E, Fairbanks, AK 99701

April 12, 2021

Representative Grier Hopkins  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau AK, 99801

**Support For Establishment of an Alaska Military Affairs Commission**

Dear Representative Hopkins,

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation is pleased to offer its support for House Bill 144 – An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission and relating to its powers and duties.

As you are aware, the Military is a substantial and vital component of the Interior and Statewide economies – accounting for roughly a third of the former and 10% of the latter. It is for this reason Fairbanks Economic Development has been honored to serve on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor’s military-focused Tiger Team, and has long supported Gubernatorial military advisory organizations like Governor Parnell’s AMFAST.

Unfortunately, as the FNSB Tiger Team has proven as “permanent” as the military’s importance in our community and State (serving as a consistent source of input and counsel to successive FNSB Mayors), Gubernatorial-level advisory groups have ebbed and flowed with each change of Administration – folding at the close of an outgoing Administration, then needing to be re-established and constituted during the subsequent one.

Recognizing the great importance of the Military to the State and its communities, FEDC has long recommended that state-level policy-makers move away from its historic on-again-off-again model (AMFAST/ACAST) and create a more stable commission for Alaska. Therefore, FEDC supports the establishment of an appropriately constituted, empowered and state-funded Alaska Military Affairs Commission to advise the Legislature & State of Alaska on military matters and encourages the passage of HB 144.

Sincerely,

Jim Dodson  
President & CEO  
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation