From: Tyler Belk (Business)
To: Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject: Support HB 22
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 5:39:45 PM

Representative Shaw,

Please view this email as encouragement and strong support of HB 22. I am following this bill closely, recognize it's value and importance to Public Safety in our great state, and believe moving it forward with proper vetting. All of which I am confident will happen in your committee and the next as well as on the floor.

I am very appreciative of our meeting last month regarding this bill. I was the firefighter who in your office said that I appreciate and recognize the BUDS pride and Seal pride you have, and that like firefighters, you understand not having time for BS. I continued that I knew HB 22 was vetted last year, supported by you and numerous other conservatives (bipartisan support), and can easily stand on its own merrit if it was not factored to said BS. Your answer back was one of my favorites to this day, you explained that it was your role to work in the BS, to clean it, and let the bill stand on its own merits. I appreciated that greatly and it reaffirmed my confidence to your unwavering character.

I know that groups have recently met with you (Bernadette Wilson from Americans for Prosperity specifically) that encourage the BS that radiates from Juneau today. I reference last years attempt at hindering business through influence of former Senator Costello. It took the will of FIREFIGHTERS to find an easy rule to circumvent this silly attempt that was absolutely purposed by this group. I also cite the notion that she is a "former" public servant this session as well as this decision likely influenced her re-election. Admittedly, I do share some views with AFP, however, with regards to their treatment of workers and retirement, I could not differ further. These groups choose to pander facts to support very weak counter arguments that or not based in logic or understanding but rather in where their funding comes from (Koch brothers). The Reason Foundation is no different and equally as funded by the same source. While masking as a "think tank" they are a soft group of semi-professionals that struggle to even read their own work, as they themselves, have admitted Tier IV retirement is inadequate by large margins. Further they have provided an embarrassing solution that would require contributions from state and local governments that are GREATER than the proposed DB system of HB 22. This is one example of such poor analysis and counter argument by supposed experts.

With transparency, I write to you as a firefighter, a lifelong Alaskan, and person with a reputation of unwavering public service, goodness, ethics, and humility to support this bill in your committee and going forward. While I am unsure whether or not I would benefit from a DB system, I wholeheartedly believe my average brother or sister in Public Safety would and thus have unwavering support for it.

Sincerely,

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