



AARP Alaska
3601 C Street
Suite 1420
Anchorage, AK 99503

T 1-866-227-7447
F 907-341-2270
TTY 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org/ak

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: HB 29 (Olson)--Support

Dear Chair Olson:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Labor and Commerce Committee to support HB 29, authored by you..

Alaska's cost of living is one of the highest in the nation. Alaska has prided itself in having competitive wages compared to the rest of the nation but we no longer do so. Low-wage workers have been losing out relative to higher paid workers at a time when corporate executives receive ever more lavish compensation. With the significant increases of utilities, home heating oil, gas prices and goods overall, it is becoming increasingly difficult for working Alaskans to maintain their standard of living.

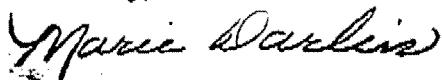
With a substantial increase of the aging population in Alaska and the current economic downturn and loss of investments, we are finding more older Alaskans are working at part time jobs for minimum wage. AARP is supportive of all policies that ensure an Alaskan worker's pay and other benefits are sufficient to cover essential living expenses.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on HB 29.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3637 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Mark Neuman
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative John Coghill
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Bob Buch
Representative Lindsey Holmes