

January 29, 2025

Dear Members of the Alaska State Senate Affairs Committee:

We provide this letter of support for SB 64 on behalf of the board, staff, and members of Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT), a statewide environmental health and justice nonprofit organization dedicated to research and advocacy to protect public health in Alaska and the world. We respectfully request that you support the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

SB 64 is necessary legislation that would reform several key parts of our Alaska election system by expanding voting rights and voting access. People need a system that ensures that all votes are accurately tabulated. SB 64 would create a ballot-curing process to ensure this. Including a ballot-curing process will allow voters to correct honest mistakes on their mail-in ballots. In the first year implementing the vote-by-mail system (2022), 4.5% of ballots were rejected by election officials, with a large percentage of those ballots from four House districts with greater percentages of minority voters and off the state's road system.

Another important feature of the bill is that it will allow same-day voter registration. Currently, 23 states and the District of Columbia allow voter registration up to and including election day. One of the benefits of this provision is that it effectively results in increased turnout of voters among the ages of 18 to 24. One of the reasons for this provision is that it benefits people who move residences ahead of an election which occurs more frequently among younger and low-income individuals. Please ensure that the final bill includes this provision.

Lastly, the bill would remove an unnecessary feature of voting by mail, the witness signature provision. The state currently does not verify signatures and eliminated 7,500 ballots due to this provision. This deprives our Alaska voters of the fundamental right to have their voice heard at the ballot box.

In conclusion, ACAT strongly supports SB-64 for all the above reasons. We strongly encourage you to support this bill. Our information is included below, and we welcome further dialogue.

Thank you for your careful consideration

Sincerely,

Francisco "Cisco" Mercado
Policy Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
1225 East International Airport Road, Suite 220
Anchorage, Alaska -99518
907-222-7714, ext. 104
Francisco@akaction.org

Pamela Miller

IPEN Co-Chair (www.ipen.org) and

Executive Director

[Alaska Community Action on Toxics](#)

1225 East International Airport Rd. Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Phone (907) 222-7714; Fax (907) 222-7715

Pamela@akaction.org