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HB-18:

Empowering Community Fundraising and Economic Development

Community Fundraising through the Race to Alaska

In 2015, Ketchikan was surprised to find itself the finishline of an exciting new unpowered boat race, the Race to Alaska, or R2AK. R2AK participants make a **750 mile marine journey** from Port Townsend, WA to Ketchikan, AK in unpowered vessels. The first team to finish wins \$10,000. The second team, a set of steak knives!

The Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce is seeking to raise funds for community projects, and increase the excitement surrounding the R2AK, by starting a **new community guessing game fundraiser** similar to the Nenana Ice Classic. Participants would guess the time the first contestant completes the race, and the person coming closest to the actual time would win a cash prize. The proceeds of this fundraiser would be used by the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce for special activities such as community projects, economic development programs, helping to grow a new scholarship fund, and more.

HB-18 gives the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce permission to conduct a community fundraiser of this type, based around the Race to Alaska. After conducting a good deal of research, we have determined that specific legislative authorization is necessary.

“Classics” -- A Fun and Common Form of Alaskana. Believe it or not, a great many non-profit entities throughout Alaska have been given permission by the legislature to conduct fundraisers of this type. There are currently **race classics, dog mushers’ classics, rain classics, fish derbies, moose derbies, and even goose and canned salmon classics.** The Chamber of Commerces for Juneau, Fairbanks, Seward, and numerous other communities have received legislative approvals for similar fundraisers.

Benefits of Fundraiser “Classics” to Alaskans

- Help provide a **new source of revenue** for community projects which otherwise would not be present.
- Support community and economic development
- Helps get Alaskans excited about contributing to community projects and initiatives
- Does not cost the State anything, but creates a new source for funding community initiatives!
- A form of **traditional Alaskana** which adds to the fun and excitement of the event!

Thank you for your consideration. We know the legislature has very challenging decisions ahead, and appreciate your time considering what we hope is a non-controversial administrative matter.

