

March 11, 2025

Representative Ky Holland  
Alaska Legislature  
State Capitol Room 418  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[rep.ky.holland@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.ky.holland@akleg.gov)

The 34th Alaska Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Holland and members of the Alaska State Legislature,

**I am writing on behalf of Launch Alaska to express our strong support for House Bill 30**, which would establish an Office of Entrepreneurship at the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Launch Alaska's mission is to catalyze rapid innovation that strengthens energy, transportation, and industrial systems. State support for early-stage entrepreneurs is key to this mission.

By investing in entrepreneurship, we take a proactive step in diversifying Alaska's economy, growing Alaska jobs of the future, and securing long-term prosperity for our residents. This bill would be part of a comprehensive statewide economic development strategy aimed at creating new opportunities for Alaskans. By streamlining state support for startups and directing resources to new businesses, we empower innovators, reduce barriers to entry, and encourage homegrown success stories. Additionally, the office would produce an annual report for the legislature and governor describing how small businesses have been affected by legislation passed in the previous year.

As part of the Office of Entrepreneurship, HB 30 would require that state agencies must spend 5% of the total economic development budget each year to support programs or organizations that help new businesses in Alaska. These steps will accelerate economic growth and position Alaska as a leader in innovation.

With the Office of Entrepreneurship, we send a clear message: Alaska is open for business, and Alaskans don't have to leave the state to find opportunities in emerging sectors. Whether in technology, energy, manufacturing, or other high-growth sectors, this initiative will help ensure that Alaska remains home to the jobs of the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



**Penny Gage**  
Chief Policy & Partnerships Officer, Launch Alaska  
2550 Denali Street, Suite 706  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
[penny.gage@launchalaska.com](mailto:penny.gage@launchalaska.com)



Jacqueline Summers, Executive Director  
jacqueline@healthtie.org

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Ky Holland and The 34th Alaska Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: House Bill 30 and 34: supporting Alaska entrepreneurs and the Alaska startup ecosystem

Dear Representative Holland and the 34th Alaska Legislature:

As Co-Founder of Health TIE, an Alaskan healthcare innovation hub, and a long-time participant in the Alaskan entrepreneurial community, I am in full support of your efforts, along with others, to increase resources for innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses in Alaska.

Health TIE creates opportunities for innovators - both within Alaska and outside - to assist health and social service organizations reduce costs while improving access to care. Some of the successful pilot projects we've launched include:

- MapHabit, a program that assists with independence for those with Traumatic Brain Injuries, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Alzheimer's and Dementia
- OpiAID, a technology that uses biometric data to assist those going through Opioid Disorder Treatment
- Pear Suite, a technology that helps Community Health Workers connect their clients to resources.

Healthcare innovators are passionate about solving difficult health and social challenges, but often face an uphill battle against inertia and bureaucracy. One of the best ways to invest in our communities is to invest in the projects and people who are driven to make them better.

After 20+ years supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem, I can tell you creating spaces and opportunities for innovators to build their ideas pays off exponentially. If we want to invest in the future of Alaska, one of the best places to start is by helping those brave enough to put a new service, product, or company into the world.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Summers". The signature is written in a dark grey or black ink.

Jacqueline Summers

34<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature

120 4th St, Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Support for House Bill 30 – Establishing the Office of Entrepreneurship**

Honorable members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature,

As an Alaskan small business owner, I support House Bill 30, which would establish an Office of Entrepreneurship. I believe such an office could better coordinate Alaska’s many business support programs and serve as a single point of contact for new businesses seeking resources.

Many entrepreneurial programs are offered in Alaska, but they are often fragmented, making it difficult for startups to navigate available opportunities. At Kartorium, we’ve participated in nearly every major program in the state—from NSF I-Corps at Center ICE at UAF to gBETA Alaska, Alaska Angel Conference, and Launch Alaska—as well as multiple pitch contests and business competitions. We were fortunate that our journey flowed seamlessly from one program to the next, but many founders I know struggled to connect the dots, missing out on valuable opportunities due to timing and lack of coordination. A centralized Office of Entrepreneurship could streamline access to resources, ensuring startups make the most of the support available.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jay Byam  
Founder & CEO of Kartorium

**Troy Vosseller**

821 E Washington Ave, Ste 200-G

Madison, WI 53703

[troy@gener8tor.com](mailto:troy@gener8tor.com)

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Honorable Members of the State of Alaska's 34th Legislature

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

**Dear Legislators,**

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 30, introduced by Representative Holland, which seeks to establish the Office of Entrepreneurship, streamline business licensing for new ventures and improve access to procurement contracts for emerging businesses in Alaska.

First, it is crucial to make a distinction between traditional small businesses and scalable startups poised for significant growth. While small businesses play an essential role in local economies, scalable companies are designed to solve critical problems at a broader scale, often leveraging innovative technologies and business models. These high-growth ventures have the potential to attract investment, create high-quality jobs, and diversify Alaska's economy beyond its traditional industries. However, they require different types of resources than traditional small businesses, such as access to venture capital, mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs, and connections to larger markets.

Since 2021, gener8tor has been actively engaged in supporting Alaska's scalable startups through our gBETA accelerator program. Over the past four years, we have worked with and supported 30 founders, who have collectively raised over \$5.5 million in capital and created 91 new jobs in the state. Through our experience, we have seen firsthand the unique needs of these startups and the challenges they face in accessing the specialized support necessary to scale effectively.

HB 30 takes critical steps toward fostering a more dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in Alaska. By creating the Office of Entrepreneurship, the bill ensures that scalable companies receive tailored support, including access to mentorship, investment networks, and growth-oriented resources. Additionally, eliminating the initial business license fee for new businesses is a meaningful incentive that reduces barriers to entry, encouraging more Alaskans to pursue innovative, high-growth ventures.

Furthermore, the bill's emphasis on improving procurement opportunities for new businesses is essential for economic diversification. By tracking and increasing procurement contracts awarded to emerging companies, Alaska can foster a more competitive and inclusive business

environment, ensuring that local entrepreneurs have the opportunities they need to grow and contribute to the state's economy.

As an organization dedicated to empowering high-growth entrepreneurs, gener8tor strongly believes that HB 30 will significantly impact Alaska's startup ecosystem by reducing regulatory burdens, providing vital support, and enhancing economic opportunities for scalable companies. We urge you to support this bill and take decisive action to strengthen the foundation for innovation and job creation in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to discuss this further or learn more about gener8tor's impact in Alaska, I would be happy to connect at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Vosseller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Troy Vosseller**  
Co-founder, gener8tor

34th Alaska Legislature

120 4th St, Juneau, AK 99801

## **Support for House Bill 30 – Establishing the Office of Entrepreneurship**

To the Members of the 34th Alaska Legislature,

Imagine an Alaska where every budding entrepreneur has the resources they need to succeed. My name is Tyler Arnold, and I'm the founder of Tyler Systems LLC, a company I originally started to build websites while attending South Anchorage High School roughly 15 years ago. After working in the startup and technology sectors in Silicon Valley, New York, DC, and even overseas in Europe, I moved back to Alaska and restarted my business. Today, my focus is on creating innovative AI solutions to help Alaskans who are being forced to do more with less in our current economic environment.

While a government-sponsored Office of Entrepreneurship may sound counter-intuitive to a legislative body already forced to wade through a long list of critical priorities, I believe establishing an Office of Entrepreneurship in Alaska should be one of those priorities, helping to empower local builders, innovators, and job creators to reach their full potential.

Despite the allure of the "tech startup dream," the reality of entrepreneurship in Alaska is stark. It's a grueling journey, fraught with setbacks and unexpected challenges. Many Alaskan entrepreneurs pour their hearts and souls into their businesses, often working for far less than minimum wage, just to keep their dreams alive – dreams that directly benefit our communities. They need a lifeline - a centralized hub for support, guidance, and critical networking opportunities.

I'd caution anyone against seeing an Office of Entrepreneurship as just another government cost center. Instead, we should see it for what it is: a strategic investment in making the most of what we already have. Alaska's entrepreneurs are our best hope at creating unique solutions to Alaska's unique problems, since nobody else is going to come to our aid.

Entrepreneurs are typically highly motivated individuals, and asking for help doesn't always come naturally. Existing business support services, whether federally funded or supported by local non-profits, are fragmented and often have high barriers to entry. It can be difficult to know where to begin or even which organizations can offer real assistance. Rural areas face an even greater uphill battle. Often, there's little collaboration or few referrals between

existing support programs, and an Office of Entrepreneurship can help cut through the fog and serve Alaskans directly, wherever and however they need support.

Before we ask individuals or organizations out of State to invest in our communities, we must first demonstrate that we're willing to invest in ourselves. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to send that signal. We're still a new State, and our landmass combined with a small population makes us wildly different than the rest of our Union. We need our own models in order to be successful. We can't just copy what works elsewhere.

An Office of Entrepreneurship is an opportunity to further develop our own sustainable models to help Alaska succeed. It's a chance to reach out to real Alaskans working to solve our community's problems for us, and be the "glue" that is so necessary to bridge a struggle to a success story.

An Office of Entrepreneurship is a way to enable us to do more with less. As the global business environment continues to change drastically with the advent of new technologies like AI, the large and ineffective bureaucracies of times past are being replaced with help that is primarily peer to peer. I see a small Office of Entrepreneurship as a response to that shift and can set an example for connecting the dots between help that already exists but remains unrealized by not always reaching the people who need it. It's not about duplicating existing services; it's about coordinating them, filling gaps, and ensuring that every Alaskan entrepreneur, regardless of location, has a fair shot at success. It's about getting a greater return on Alaska's most valuable asset: Its people.

I encourage you to support an Alaskan Office of Entrepreneurship to gain a greater return on help we already receive, and to act as a catalyst for the individual Alaskans working on our behalf to solve our State's greatest problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Tyler" and "Arnold" being capitalized and prominent.

Tyler Arnold

Founder & CEO of Tyler Systems LLC