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January 20, 2018

Representative Andy Josephson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support HB 279 – Sunset Extension for Real Estate Commission

Dear Representative Josephson:

The Alaska Association of REALTORS® represents over 1,700 of the nearly 3,000 licensees across Alaska. We write to express our strong support for the extension of the Real Estate Commission (REC) to June 30, 2026 as recently recommended by the Legislative Auditor.

In 2016 the Legislature passed HB 290 (Chpt. 24, SLA 16) sponsored by the House Labor and Commerce Committee granting the REC a two-year extension. At the time the Legislature chose to give the REC only a two-year extension rather than the typical eight-year extension, in part due to continued concern over the lack of implementation of a master policy for Errors & Omission insurance for licensees. As a result, the Commission is set to go into a wind down year on June 30, 2018 if it is not extended this Legislative Session.

After passage of HB 290 we, the Alaska Association of REALTORS® worked hard with both the REC and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to get a master policy in place through adoption of regulations and a procurement process. Due to the success of that effort the 2017 Legislative Audit Report dated June 15, 2017, recommends an eight-year extension to June 30, 2026.

The Legislative Auditor found the Commission to be serving in the public's interest by effectively licensing and regulating real estate licensees and offices. The commission monitored licensees and worked to ensure only qualified individuals practice in Alaska. Furthermore, the commission developed and adopted regulations to improve the real estate industry and better protect the public, addressing the earlier concern.



We strongly believe the Real Estate Commission should be extended to June 30, 2026 and urge your support to swiftly pass HB 279.

Sincerely,

Errol D Champion

**Errol Champion, Advocacy Key Work Group Chair
Alaska Association of REALTORS®**

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