



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Public Safety**

DIVISION OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY  
Office of the Director

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April 12, 2018

Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Co-Chairs  
State Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman and Senator MacKinnon,

I am writing this letter in support of HB 400, "An Act relating to the collection of fees by the Department of Public Safety for fire and Explosion prevention and safety services".

The mission of the Division of Fire and Life Safety is to "Reduce the loss of life and property to fire and explosion". Toward this goal, the law requires the Division of Fire and Life Safety to perform fire inspections on commercial buildings to verify compliance with fire codes and ensure that fire safety equipment is in good working order.

Regular fire inspections increase public safety and prevent the loss of life and property to fires. There are over 3,000 buildings statewide that require these fire inspections. Currently, we have adequate staffing to complete these inspections on a two-year schedule, but unfortunately we do not have adequate funding to pay for staff to travel as required to meet this goal. The result of this lack of funding is that buildings, especially in more remote locations, may go years without an inspection to identify and correct fire hazards.

I ask for your favorable consideration on this important public safety measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tyler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Tyler  
State Fire Marshal