



March 16, 2010

Representatives Jay Ramras, Chair  
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism Committee  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**RE: HCR21 "A resolution creating and relating to the Economic Development Planning Commission."**

Dear Representative Herron:

Southeast Conference strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution 21, a resolution to create an economic development planning commission. The state has significant need for economic development and is in dire need of a strategic plan for our future. This commission and its duties spelled out in HCR21 would serve as a valuable tool for this strategic planning. It is important that we take steps to integrate private sector leadership into economic development efforts administered by our state government.

Southeast Conference is a private membership organization that works to advance the collective interests of the people, communities, and businesses of Southeast Alaska. It is the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), Federal Economic Development District (EDD), and USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council for the region. The Conference's Mission is to help develop strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Please adopt HCR21 for the future of our communities and our state.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors,

Shelly Wright  
Executive Director



# THE ENTREPRENEURS AND MENTORS NETWORK INC

*Mentors empowering Entrepreneurs*

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March 21, 2010  
Representatives Jay Ramras, Chair  
Economic Development, Trade & Tourism Committee  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

## Reference HCR 21

Dear Representative Ramras:

TEAM Network Inc supports a resolution to create an economic development planning commission. It is important that more private sector input be solicited and included in the economic planning process. Our current process is not adequately preparing Alaska for the new economic realities before us.

TEAM Network Inc. is a business mentoring organization that creates and participates in active learning opportunities to network been-there-done-that businessmen/businesswomen with want-to-go-there innovators and entrepreneurs. Alaska is in last place in the 2008 Milken Risk Capital and Entrepreneurial Infrastructure Composite Index. Our current model is preparing Alaska for yesterday's opportunities instead of laying the foundation for tomorrow's.

### State Technology and Science Index

Enduring Lessons for the Intangible Economy  
June 2008

#### Risk Capital and Entrepreneurial Infrastructure Composite Index

This measures the stock of capable entrepreneurs and risk capital available to support the conversion of research into commercially viable technology products and services. Eleven indicators are included in this Composite Index, listed at the bottom of this page. Click on an indicator to see further data comparisons at the individual indicator level.

| Select a Composite |      |               | Select a State |      |               |               |      |               |
|--------------------|------|---------------|----------------|------|---------------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 2008               |      |               | 2004           |      |               | 2002          |      |               |
| State              | Rank | Average Score | State          | Rank | Average Score | State         | Rank | Average Score |
| Nebraska           | 44   | 38.60         | Alabama        | 44   | 30.22         | Alaska        | 44   | 29.33         |
| Montana            | 45   | 38.57         | Iowa           | 45   | 28.67         | Kentucky      | 45   | 27.56         |
| North Dakota       | 46   | 36.25         | Montana        | 46   | 27.56         | Wyoming       | 46   | 27.33         |
| Iowa               | 47   | 34.22         | Alaska         | 47   | 24.67         | Arkansas      | 47   | 18.44         |
| West Virginia      | 48   | 32.18         | Kentucky       | 48   | 23.78         | West Virginia | 48   | 18.00         |
| Mississippi        | 49   | 30.40         | Mississippi    | 49   | 22.22         | South Dakota  | 49   | 15.33         |
| Alaska             | 50   | 21.71         | North Dakota   | 50   | 16.22         | North Dakota  | 50   | 9.78          |

Average Annual SBIC Funds Disbursed per \$1,000 of GSP

Increase in Number of Companies Receiving VC Investment

IPO Proceeds as Percent of GSP

Number of Business Incubators per 10,000 Business Establishments

Number of Business Starts per 100,000 People

Number of Companies Receiving VC Investment per 10,000 Business Establishments

Patents Issued per 100,000 People

Total Venture Capital Investment Growth

VC Investment in Clean Technology per \$1,000 of GSP

VC Investment in Nanotechnology per \$1,000 of GSP

Venture Capital Investment as Percent of GSP

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/tech/tech.taf?sub=rcic>

Sincerely,  
Allan R. Johnston

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