

April 23, 2012

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of House Bill 9

Dear Speaker Chenault,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is an organization dedicated to improving the business climate in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of statewide businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. Today, I am writing in support of Committee Substitute for House Bill 9 (Finance) amended (CS HB (Fin) am, or Version Q.A).

Last fall, Alaska Chamber members adopted twenty-six positions they believe will positively impact the business environment in Alaska and three top priorities. One of the three top priority positions is "reducing the high cost of energy" by supporting initiatives that lower the high cost of energy in Alaska by developing energy resources. Additionally, the Alaska Chamber adopted a position supporting the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation's (AGDC) Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline process.

The Alaska Chamber supports HB 9 which allows AGDC to advance an in state pipeline to the construction stage. Such a process will identify opportunities for getting natural gas to Alaskans in a commercially and economically viable manner. Additionally, should it be an option, HB 9 allows AGDC to participate in a large diameter export gasline project.

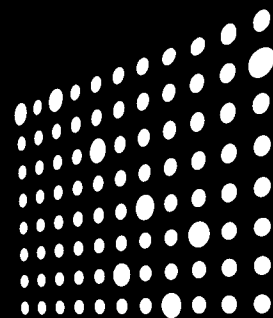
As an organization representing private sector business in Alaska, the Alaska Chamber will evaluate future recommendations stemming from the AGDC process carefully. In other words, we prefer projects be funded by the private sector.

The Alaska Chamber looks forward to passage of HB 9.

Sincerely,



Rachael A. Petro
President/CEO



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