SWAMC
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
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Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

February 2, 2011

Dear Senator Wielechowski,

This letter is written in support of SB 34, a bill aimed at creating a micro revolving loan fund for the State of Alaska. Access to startup and working capital is a key component of starting new enterprises and creating jobs in Alaska, and many rural Alaskans do not have access to this type of capital.

In Southwest Alaska, a revolving loan fund could help boat owners or smaller fish processors with equipment purchases. It could assist bed and breakfast owners with upgrades to their homes and business. Or it could provide much-needed construction capital to mechanics, day care providers, and a host of other small business startups and entrepreneurs.

Alaska is one of only four states in the nation that do not have a microloan program and this bill would resolve that and fill an unmet need that would help small businesses, which is why SWAMC supports it.

Our organization believes SB 34 is a valuable bill with great potential. I hope it can help add to Alaska's efforts to support our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Sincerely,
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

Andy Varner

Executive Director