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January 19, 2011

The Honorable Mike Hawker
Member of the House of Representatives
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 16 (Hawker)—Support

Dear Representative Hawker:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we are pleased to indicate our very strong support for HB 16 which will extend the Senior Benefits program for another four years.

There is no doubt that the Senior Benefits program has proven to be an invaluable help to many older Alaskans who might not be able to afford to stay here without it.

We all recognize that Alaska's seniors face high health care costs as well as high energy costs.

The Senior Benefits program has allowed over 10,000 older Alaskans to deal with these costs and to remain citizens of our state.

We want Alaskans to be able to stay here after retirement. The Senior Benefits program is essential to achieve that goal.

On behalf of all those older Alaskans who may not be aware of your continued leadership on this issue, please accept our thanks for all that you have done, continue to do, and will do in the future.

We are pleased to thank Representatives Millet, Lynn, Gara and Tuck for signing up to co-sponsor HB 16.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Darlin, Coordinator
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586-3637 (voice)
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CC: Representative Charisse Millet
Representative Les Gara

Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Chris Tuck