

January 30, 2014

Representative Steve Thompson  
State Capitol Room 500  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 223

Dear Representative Thompson,

I am writing in support of your proposed legislation House Bill 223.

The Military Industry is one of the largest industries in the State of Alaska, contributing 17% of Alaska's Gross State Product and 20% of Alaska's Labor Dollars. This is a substantial contribution but in our community, the statistics are overwhelming: the Military Industry in Fairbanks contributes 30% of our Gross Community Product and 38% of our total Labor Dollars.

The impact and the potential for economic growth associated with this industry have been long overlooked in Alaska. Your legislation from the 27<sup>th</sup> Legislature, HB 316 (establishing Military Facility Zones), coupled with HB 223 (an Act authorizing municipalities to exempt, or partially exempt, property in a military facility zone for up to 10 years) create an opportunity for private investment and private industry to better partner with the Military Industry in our State and our Communities; thus creating more jobs for Alaskans and helping assure Alaska's economic future.

I commend you for your initiative in sponsoring HB 223. I appreciate your continued support of this vital statewide industry and I urge the support of your fellow legislators.

Thank you,



Jim Dodson,  
President & CEO  
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation