

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

March 7, 2014

The Honorable Wes Keller
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Support for House Bill 284

Dear Representative Keller:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 284. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

Runaway federal spending is a very serious threat to business in Alaska. We are among many who have waited decades for Congress to act and use its authority to require a balanced budget. Instead, Washington insiders continue to borrow and spend at unsustainable rates. Broken federal programs are consuming massive amounts of money, funded in large part by increasingly wary foreign borrowers.

We are encouraged that Alaska is considering authorizing a convention of the states, which it has the power to do so under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. We hope you will help lead and ensure Alaska becomes one of the 34 states needed for a convention call. Of note, our Founders ensured important checks and balances are in place. Importantly, 38 states must ratify any proposed constitutional amendment to force Congress to balance the budget.

Why is a limited convention of the states to propose a balanced budget so important to small businesses?

- 91% of NFIB members want Congress to propose this amendment, according to our polling, but Congress is not interested or interested in enough in acting.
- Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare consume 45% of our national budget. Non-discretionary spending is nearly an astonishing 70% and debt to GDP is soaring, setting up an inevitable economic crash if action isn't taken soon.
- Washington is adding insult to injury and borrowing against these trust funds, making the problem far worse than the oft-publicized \$17 trillion. Under stricter accounting methods, long-term unfunded liabilities are in excess of \$50 trillion, according to some estimates.

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- Alaska is one of the 33 states that constitutionally **MUST** balance its budget annually. Congress should have to do the same!

HB 284 is targeted and focused to accomplish its goal while protecting Alaskans from unintended consequences. This approach will help Alaska and other states force the federal government back to its appropriate limited powers.

We join with you in seeking the passage of House Bill 284.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council