

Alaska Oil and Gas Association



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Kara Moriarty, President/CEO

March 11, 2014

Senator Click Bishop
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 178, Passenger Vehicle Rental Tax

Dear Senator Bishop,

The Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) formally supports SB 178, Passenger Vehicle Rental Tax. AOGA is the business trade organization representing the majority of oil and gas producers, explorers, refiners, transporters and marketers in Alaska. With 15 member companies, we represent both large and small companies with interests on the North Slope, in the Cook Inlet and in the Outer Continental Shelf.

We understand the Department of Revenue has sought to apply the rental vehicle tax retroactively back to 2004. Requiring my member companies to pay a 10 percent rental vehicle tax on all leases for the past nine years that was not anticipated nor budgeted for essentially results in a retroactive tax increase, which further challenges the economics of operating on the North Slope.

SB 178 clarifies and amends the rental vehicle tax to make it clear that the rental vehicle tax does not apply to Alaska businesses making long-term rentals to other Alaska businesses. In our mind, this is a fair solution for an issue that surely was not intended to hamper economic growth.

We also appreciate the bill's provision that reduces the minimum gross vehicle weight rating to qualify for this exemption from 8,500 lbs to 6,500 lbs. This insures the rental vehicle tax is not applied to Alaska businesses engaged in commercial rentals of heavy vehicles, many of which operate on the North Slope, and in support of oil and gas operations in the Cook Inlet.

Thank you for introducing this bill and we look forward to providing support for the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Moriarty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kara" and last name "Moriarty" clearly distinguishable.

KARA MORIARTY
President/CEO

Cc: Representative Steve Thompson