

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Olson
Alaska House of Representatives
Chairman, Labor and Commerce Committee
Capitol Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 76

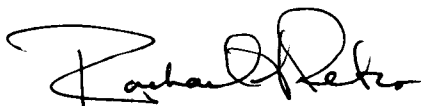
Dear Representative Olson:

The mission of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses and local chambers from across Alaska. These member businesses support legislation that updates and clarifies laws as they relate to doing business and that generally improves Alaska's business climate. The Alaska Chamber supports House Bill 76 (HB 76).

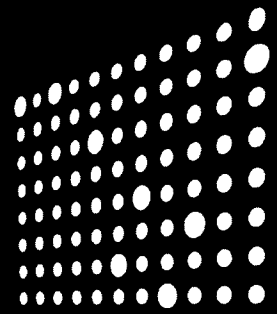
In years when the Unemployment Trust Fund's solvency is not at risk, the Alaska Chamber believes the goal of keeping more money in employer and employee pocket books is a worthy one. HB 76 provides a mechanism to reduce the increase in Unemployment tax for employers and employees without risking the solid solvency of Alaska's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system. While a rate increase may be decreased, over the long term, those funds can be recouped as set out in Section 4 of the bill. If there were catastrophic economic events, impossible for actuaries to anticipate, which devastated the funds available in the system, the Legislature maintains the ability to bring the fund back to solvency.

Additionally, HB 76 adds provisions to state statute to comply with federal law, improves the ability for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to collect on fraudulent claims, and allows electronic filing. These provisions ensure that Alaska's UI system remains compliant, efficient, and fair – all benefiting Alaska employers and employees.

Sincerely,



Rachael A. Petro
President/CEO



ALASKA STATE
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

*The Voice of
Alaska Business*

Headquarters

471 W 36th Ave
Suite 201
Anchorage
AK 99503
(907) 278-2722

Regional Office

3100 Channel Dr.
Suite 300
Juneau
AK 99801
(907) 586-2323

www.alaskachamber.com