

March 19, 2013

Representative Steve Thompson
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Thompson,

As President and CEO of the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, I would like to voice my support of HB 176.

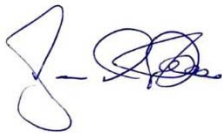
For many years FEDC has marketed Alaska as the “Most Affordable, Accessible and Reliable” place to do Cold Weather Testing (CWT) in the World. Today, companies from around the world have recognized Alaska, and especially the Fairbanks area, as a prime location to cold-weather-test their products. This industry has a significant positive impact on the state and is estimated to contribute over \$500 million annually to the Fairbanks economy.

It was recently brought to my attention that Alaska regulations on vehicle registration are making it difficult, if not impossible, for some of our most loyal CWT automotive companies to continue to do CWT in our state.

I am very thankful that you have recognized this problem and have moved quickly to rectify this issue for the next CWT season. I appreciate your work and urge other legislators support your changes necessary to facilitate the continued growth of our CWT industry.

HB 176 provides a beneficial solution to all parties involved. It protects the DMV regulation that is necessary for non-experimental vehicles and allows the automotive CWT industry to continue to be a part of Alaska’s growing economy.

Respectfully,



Jim Dodson
President & CEO
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation