



## Interior Alaska – The “Place” To Do Business

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March 26, 2013

Representative Shelley Hughes  
State Capitol Building  
Room #409  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Hughes,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 businesses and organizations in the greater Fairbanks area and our mission is to ensure a healthy economic environment. The Chamber supports the Alaska House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution No. 6, recognizing the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a national leader in unmanned aircraft research and development, and establishing a legislative Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

The University of Alaska has led the way for research on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and continues this pioneering work in its bid to become one of the nation's six test sites for aircraft systems testing and research. The Resolution recognizes this substantial effort. More significantly, it establishes a legislative Task Force to address potential impacts and opportunities of unmanned aircraft systems for our state.

Alaska's immense land mass and associated airspace presents opportunities no other state can offer for testing and flight training. Vast existing Military Operations Areas and expansive ground maneuver areas can easily support virtually all military applications for current and future UAS technology, and military UAS infrastructure can only complement civilian and commercial applications.

As with any new technology, a myriad of concerns must be addressed before unmanned aircraft become a common fixture in our National airspace. This resolution takes the necessary step to begin addressing those concerns to insure Alaska leads the way for this transformative and dynamic flight environment.

Sincerely,

Lisa Herbert  
Executive Director

Terri Froese  
Board of Directors, Chair

Tim Jones  
Military Affairs Committee, Chair

Anna Atchison  
Government Relations Committee, Chair

Cc: Governor Sean Parnell  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce  
Membership of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

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