



March 25, 2013

Senator Mike Dunleavy
State Capitol Rm 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

SUBJECT: Support for HB74 & SB25, Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

The Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association (AkH&LA) appreciates Governor Parnell's introduction of HB76 and SB25 relating to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. This legislation is forward thinking in these challenging economic times when too many Alaska businesses are struggling to pay increased operating costs while maintaining financial viability. AkH&LA applauds this effort and requests passage of this legislation this session.

AkH&LA recognizes that it is imperative that Alaska safeguard the solvency of the UI Trust Fund. However, allowing the Commissioner of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development to conditionally eliminate or reduce unneeded increases in the UI tax rates on employers and employees while meeting federal compliance requirements is an effective tool with which to respond to Alaska's economic conditions while maintaining the integrity of the Fund.

Over 27,000 Alaskans are employed by the lodging and restaurant industries. These employees and the businesses that hire them are vital to the Alaskan economy. AkH&LA supports efforts by the Legislature to strike a balance between employee protections and employers' affordability. We believe this bill does just that. We urge your support and swift passage of HB 76 and SB 25.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Kenney
Executive Director
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association

Cc:
Governor Parnell
Alaska Legislature



United in a common goal to make Alaska the most hospitable place on earth!

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