

# Interior Alaska – The "Place" To Do Business

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# INVESTORS

March 9, 2015

Honorable Representatives Nageak & Talerico Co-Chairs, Resources Committee Honorable Senators Bishop & Micciche Co-Chairs, Special Committee on Energy Alaska State Legislature

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 105 & Senate Bill 50 – AIDEA: Bonds; Programs; Loans; LNG Project

Dear Representatives Nageak and Talerico and Senators Bishop and Micciche,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports HB 105 & SB 50, an Act that will allow the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) the necessary flexibility to finance and advance a natural gas energy project to address the high cost of energy in Interior and Rural Alaska. This bill builds on legislation passed during the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature referred to as the Interior Energy Project (IEP) which allowed AIDEA the ability to provide project financing to a natural gas energy project specifically on the North Slope. HB 105 expands AIDEA's authority to allow AIDEA the flexibility to finance projects not just on the North Slope, but elsewhere in the state and that are designed to address energy needs in the state.

Our Chamber's #1 critical priority is reducing the high cost of energy. We remain steadfast in our support of the IEP's stated goals of bringing affordable natural gas to the greatest number of Interior residents and businesses as rapidly as possible. While a significant investment from the State was made during the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature on the IEP, continued progress must be made to achieve affordable energy for Alaska's residents and businesses.

The Chamber is the premier business advocacy organization in the Interior whose mission is to advocate for a healthy economic environment by building partnerships that promote the greater Fairbanks area as an attractive place for business and community. We believe the Interior remains the "Place to do Business", but our mission is made more difficult every year that goes by without action towards a mid-to-long term energy solution that addresses the high cost of energy for our businesses and residents.

We thank you for your leadership on this critical issue facing our community.

Sincerely,

# **GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Lisa Herbert Executive Director

Jennifer Imus Board of Directors, Chair

#### D I A M O N D Alaska Airlines BP Exploration ConocoPhillips ExxonMobil Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Fairbanks Memorial Hospital &

Denali Center Flint Hills Resources Alaska Mt. McKinley Bank

## PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Doyon, Limited Fred Meyer Stores Golden Heart Utilities Wells Fargo Bank Alaska

## GOLD

Carlson Center Denali State Bank Design Alaska Doyon Utilities LLC First National Bank Alaska GCI Kinross Fort Knox Mine Lynden Northrim Bank Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC Usibelli Coal Mine WAL-MART Stores, Inc.

# SILVER

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