

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Tammie Wilson
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 317 Forfeiture of Property to the State

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 317. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

Our current legal process allows the state to seize property based on the basis of probable cause without a person even being charged or convicted of a crime. We believe that Alaskans are entitled better due process than is provided in current law.

Once property is seized, the business owner must appeal within a specified time frame at that person's cost in both time and dollars. The problem for the individual is compounded by the fact that law enforcement generates revenue for itself by disposing of the seized property.

We believe that HB 317 contains provisions that will allow law enforcement the ability to pursue criminal activity while it provides safeguards for individuals and a process for recovering seized property that should not have been seized.

We appreciate your addressing this critical issue to protect innocent Alaskans from unfair seizure of their property.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council
House Judiciary Committee