ALASKA AIRMEN
ASSOCIATION

4200 Floatplane Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-245-1251
adam.white@alaskaairmen.org

April 6, 2015

Representative Gattis
State Capitol, Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HB167
"AN ACT EXEMPTING SPECIFIED AIRCRAFT OPERATORS FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO EMERGENCY RATIONS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT"

Dear Representative Gattis and House Transportation Committee:

The Alaska Airmen Association is a general aviation organization that represents over 2000 members. Our mission is to "promote general aviation in Alaska." Membership includes pilots, mechanics, aircraft owners and others that have an interest in aviation. On behalf of our membership, thank you for the opportunity to submit the following written testimony pertaining to House Bill 167.

The Alaska Airmen Association does <u>not</u> support the concept of exempting commercial operators from carrying survival equipment.

While the Alaska Airmen's Association agrees that Alaska Statute 02.35.110 is in need of review and revision we do not feel that this Bill is in the best interest of safety. It is the Alaska Airmen's position that emergency rations and survival equipment suitable for the terrain and climate in which you operate and in appropriate quantities for the people traveling in your party should always carried in aircraft.

The "Real-Time" Satellite Tracking Equipment and 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter mentioned in the Bill may provide a reduced search time. However, it does not help the injured or provide resources to sustain life until the party can be rescued. Even if Search and Rescue assets know exactly when and where an aircraft is in distress it may be a significant amount of time before they are able to reach those in need.

Allowing some aviation operations to be exempt from carrying critical resources on board the aircraft is not prudent, it has the potential to contribute to reduced survival rates and does not pass the "red face test" of the public's perception of safety.

Sincerely,

Adam White
Government Affairs