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March 3, 2017

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Support for SB 34 - REAL ID Act

Dear Senator Dunleavy:

I am writing to encourage support of the legislation to create a REAL ID-compliant driver's license during this legislative session. As you know, Alaska has been granted an extension of the date required by the Federal Government for compliance with the REAL ID Act until 6/6/2017. After that date, Alaska-issued driver's licenses will no longer be accepted for entry onto military bases.

Access to military installations is a daily concern to our business. Doyon Utilities is one of the state's largest utilities, owning and operating twelve utility systems that serve 43,000 soldiers, airmen, and their families located on Fort Wainwright, Fort Greely, and JBER-Richardson under three fifty year privatized utility contracts. On a daily basis, our employees report to work on military installations to ensure safe provision of utility services. They are required to first pass through military installation access control points. Nearly all of our employees use their Alaska driver's licenses to gain access.

But it is not just our employees that rely on their Alaska licenses. As part of our utility operations, we construct new utility assets on an annual basis. This requires work with local contractors, consultants, and technical support that need access to the military installations as well. These third party personnel also rely on Alaska driver's licenses for access to the installations. If Alaska licenses are not compliant with federal guidelines, our employees and contractors will be forced to acquire and use a passport for access to their place of business.

To meet service requirements of the military, we frequently travel by air between Fairbanks and Anchorage, and often fly Outside for training; similarly, our contractors and others providing warranty services must travel by air. Doyon Utilities is not the only employer that relies on air travel to get work done in the state. Because TSA will require REAL ID-compliant identification in the near future, it just makes sense to allow those who need this compliant identification for work or travel to have it available to them. The legislation as written allows those with privacy or other concerns to opt out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shayne Coiley
Senior Vice President
Doyon Utilities