



February 14, 2017

Senator Mia Costello
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee Chair
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of SB 56 – Product Warranties & Required Updates

Dear Senator Costello:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) supports the current version of Senate Bill 56, an act relating to product warranties and services for certain products; relating to certain dealers, distributors, and manufacturers; and establishing an unfair trade practice under the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.

The mission of the Alaska Chamber is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. We represent hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across the state. The Alaska Chamber believes SB 56 will provide increased consumer protection for owners of heavy equipment when manufacturers require updates and/or warranty work is needed.

As you know Alaska is unique in its vast geographical size as well as the remoteness of where many businesses operate their heavy equipment. This size and remoteness leads to higher costs and challenges when getting goods and services out to these locations. The manufacturers do not reimburse for the higher costs of the updates and warranty work, and so Alaska businesses are forced to absorb these costs.

The Alaska Chamber urges you to schedule a hearing in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee for Senate Bill 56.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer'.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO