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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: MICHAEL DRUCE

REPRESENTING: (SELF)

BILL # or SUBJECT: SB 6

COMMITTEE: SRES DATE: 2/8/17

I BELIEVE OUR STATE MUST AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WHILE OIL & GAS ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT, IT IS INCUMBENT ON US TO EXPLORE OTHER BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES. AS A PEONY FARMER, I BELIEVE HEMP IS ONE OF MANY VIABLE INDUSTRIES RIPE FOR DEVELOPMENT. IT IS SUSTAINABLE AND RENEWABLE. OUR STATE WAS FOUNDED ON A CAN DO ATTITUDE. THAT SAME VISION AND IMAGINATION SHOULD INFORM OUR THINKING AS WE SEEK TO ATTRACT NEW AND INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHOULD ENGAGE IN A FULL COURT PRESS IN MAKING ALASKA THE PLACE THAT NEW AND EXCITING IDEAS ARE NURTURED AND REALIZED. SB6 IS A BEGINNING. AN AGGRESSIVE AND TENACIOUS APPROACH TO RESOURCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR STATE.