



March 7, 2017

Senator Mike Dunleavy
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports cooperative and sustainable partnerships between the military and business community. Many of our member businesses deliver goods and services to our military installations to support the defense of our nation. However, these partnerships may be in jeopardy if the state does not pass legislation this session to address the REAL ID Act.

The Fairbanks Chamber supports passage of HB74 or SB34 in response to the REAL ID Act of 2005, which was passed by Congress and relates to issues of National Security and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and which modifies U.S. federal law pertaining to security, authentication, and issuance procedures standards for the state driver's licenses and identity documents, as well as various immigration issues pertaining to terrorism.

The passage of HB74 or SB34 is necessary to ensure continued base access to the thousands of Alaskan employees who work there each day. If legislation does not pass, there will be an adverse economic impact in Fairbanks and throughout the State. The military accounts for one third of the economy of Fairbanks North Star Borough, much of which comes from military contracts with local businesses and individuals for short and long-term business endeavors. The greater Fairbanks area will soon benefit from increased federal construction on Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Greely and Clear Air Force Station. In the face of upcoming Federal deadlines, Alaska's continued non-compliance with the REAL ID Act will create a barrier to Alaskan businesses that would otherwise be involved in the construction activity. Most employees rely on their driver's license to provide them access to the military installations where they work, and Alaskan driver's licenses are non-compliant with the Act. Therefore, Alaskan workers who do not have a passport will not be allowed access. Ironically, and contrary to other State efforts encouraging local hire, out of state workers will be given the advantage for work hours on military installations because most states are issuing REAL ID compliant IDs.

It is critical that legislation pass this year due to the approaching deadlines established by the Department of Homeland Security. The consequences of noncompliance with the REAL ID Act will begin affecting Alaskan businesses as soon as June 6, 2017 for access to military facilities, and January 22, 2018 for travel through TSA security points. Alaska MUST take this necessary step towards compliance now. The Department of Motor Vehicles needs as much as a year to have the necessary equipment and processes in place to provide compliant IDs. Without action that at least indicates a

good faith effort towards compliance, Alaska has likely run out of deadline extensions, making this legislation inevitable. Passing it now rather than later reduces the impacts to working Alaskans and the businesses that employ them in the near term, and resolves the impending TSA travel issue.

We understand the privacy concerns related to the REAL ID Act and support the solution put forward in this legislation that makes obtaining a compliant REAL ID voluntary on the part of Alaskans. Either HB74 or SB34 would allow the Department of Administration to issue both REAL ID compliant and noncompliant identification cards and driver's licenses, at the resident's preference.

With so much of the Interior's economy dependent on the military, we greatly appreciate any support you can offer to ensure the passage of the REAL ID legislation this session. Please do not put the employment of thousands of Alaskans at risk.

Sincerely,



Marisa Sharrah
President & CEO
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce



Garry Hutchison
Board Chair
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce