



# Representative Chris Tuck

Alaska House Majority Coalition Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

March 16, 2017

Commissioner Sheldon Fisher  
Alaska Department of Administration  
P.O. Box 110200  
Juneau, AK 99811-0200

Dear Commissioner Fisher:

Given that I am bound by the Alaska Oath of Office to protect and defend Alaskans' right to privacy and other constitutional rights, I am deeply concerned that the Alaska Department of Administration is moving forward with efforts to seek implementation of the Federal REAL ID Act in Alaska while many serious questions about the potential long and short term effects of compliance remain unanswered and unresolved.

The actual REAL ID Act is barely six pages long and was passed by Congress with little or no debate as part of an emergency appropriation package in response to Hurricane Katrina. Previously the bill, when actually debated, was rejected by Congress. This Act has since spawned hundreds of pages of rules, regulations, compliance lists, and other mandates by the Department of Homeland Security and their affiliates, both private and public.

The ramifications of complying with the REAL ID Act are enormous. Many of the current mandates are unsettling and financially prohibitive. It truly appears to be both an "unfunded federal mandate" and "federal overreach" in the truest sense. In the long term, compliance will give the Department of Homeland security the ability to control the identification we need for many of the activities we see as an inherent right such as work, travel, banking and commerce, and the right to bear arms and purchase ammunition.

It could be that we will be ultimately forced to submit to the mandates of the Department of Homeland Security and their affiliates, but I do not agree that this is merely a "user-friendly" solution to a bureaucratic problem. We cannot be expected to vote away Alaskans' rights and freedoms without a full understanding of the consequences of our actions. To this end, I would appreciate your response to the attached list of questions which have arisen from recent hearings and other research on the topic.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Tuck".

Representative Chris Tuck

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