



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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March 21, 2017

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: House Bill 74

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

The Associated General Contractors of Alaska is a trade association representing over 640 Alaskan businesses in the construction industry. Within our membership is much of Alaska's construction industry. On behalf of the AGC and those businesses, I offer the following support for House Bill 74.

HB 74 would give the State of Alaska the ability to offer drivers' licenses and identification cards compliant and non-compliant with REAL ID requirements. This approach provides Alaskans with an option, so that those needing or desiring to have continued access to federal facilities and the ability to pass through airport security can do so. Those desiring more privacy, may have that.

Of interest to our industry, is the ability to access construction projects on military bases. As you may be aware, the 2017 construction forecast projects a total of \$635 million in national defense spending and we expect an increase over that in 2018. We are thankful for the significant projects at Eielson, Fort Greeley, and Clear, as well as other federal projects that support Alaska construction jobs during this period of suppressed economy. Ensuring work crews have access to work sites on base is critical to the timely completion of these projects.

HB 74 would make the statutory changes necessary for our state to offer compliant identifications for Alaskans. Compliant identification will also help to insure more Alaskan employment on these projects. Alaska hire is something we all support.

I urge your support and timely passage of the legislation to the next committee of referral.

Sincerely,

John MacKinnon, Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska