

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Chris Tuck
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 142

Dear Representative Tuck:

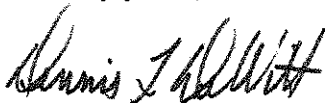
On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our opposition to House Bill 142. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 142 would increase the unemployment benefit and, consequently, the tax on small Alaskan businesses. It further provides future increases would be moved outside the legislative process.

As you are aware, Alaska is in a recession that is slowing businesses in Alaska, making it more difficult to remain in business, let alone, expand business. Thus it is not a time to add additional taxes to struggling businesses. In the past, there has been restructuring of the program to minimize the potential increase in the tax rate. There are no such changes included in this proposal.

We strongly oppose the Section 2 as it cedes any future increases to a regulatory formula rather than being considered by the legislature. Allowing programs to grow without legislative review is poor public policy. Further, it prevents a discussion of the wisdom of the status of the economy and how it is affected by such changes.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council
House Labor & Commerce Committee

Refrigeration & Food Equipment Inc.

1901 W. Tudor Road

Anchorage, AK 99517

Ph: (907) 248-2525

Fax: (907) 243-6709

Email: tim.agosti@alaskan.com



March 22, 2017

Representative Gary Knopp
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 142

Dear Representative Knopp:

I would like to express my opposition to HB142 for its unintended costs for small business. By increasing the base amount we have to pay on our payrolls, it equates to a tax on small business because of the higher percentage employers have to pay.

Alaska is in a recession now and business is slowing, making it difficult to remain in business, let alone, expand. Thus it is not a time to add additional taxes to struggling businesses. Why not restructure the program to make it revenue neutral?

I also strongly oppose the Section 2 as it cedes future increases to a formula rather than being considered by the legislature. This prevents any discussion of whether it is prudent based on the status of the economy and how small business is affected by such changes.

Respectfully,

Tim Agosti

Tim Agosti
President

Home Address:

36894 Virginia Drive
Kenai, AK 99611

CC: Representative Chris Tuck