



January 22, 2017

Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Lori Hanemann
Executive Director
P.O. Box 201416
Anchorage, AK 99520-1416

Representative Jason Grenn
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Grenn:

RE: House Bill 44. Legislative Ethics: Voting & Conflicts

On behalf of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group, we are sending our support of House Bill 44: LEGISLATIVE ETHICS: VOTING & CONFLICTS. As long time advocates for Alaskans' public interest, we want our legislators to pass bills which protect citizens in our state from corruption and corporate influence. We believe HB 44 brings more transparency and accountability to the legislative process by ensuring legislators are representing the people and the state, not favoring their own best interest or that of a business or corporate lobbyist. This Bill brings Alaska's voting process closer to the more fair practices in other states, giving Legislators procedures and rules to consistently handle conflicts of interest as they come up and allow them to recuse themselves when their influence would bring personal gain to them or their family. This is the right thing for both the legislators and the citizens, and it will give more confidence as the public learns and understands a vote is based on its value and not corporate influence.

Sincerely,

Lori Hanemann
AkPIRG Executive Director

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