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Governor Bill Walker
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March 1, 2018

The Honorable Pete Kelly
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Kelly:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill establishing the Correctional Industries Board and authorizing the Commissioner of Corrections to establish a correctional industries program within the department.

With over 90 percent of individuals incarcerated returning to our communities it is important that we enable them to develop the skills necessary to be successful when released. One way to do this is to provide them with real-world job experience.

This bill will create a four-person board comprised of the Commissioner of Corrections, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and two members of a labor organization. The Commissioner will work through the Correctional Industries Board to approve proposed industry programs, employment contracts, and agreements which will allow inmates to produce products or services that can then be sold to public or private entities.

Through these contracts and agreements, inmates will gain real-world experience, be productive with their time, and learn new skills. The public also benefits by being able to purchase quality services and products that may not otherwise be available in the area. Additionally, this legislation has the potential to create new economic growth and expand development opportunities within existing industries.

This bill is another tool in reducing recidivism while providing industry with skilled workers.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure