STATE CAPITOL P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811-0001 907-465-3500 fax: 907-465-3532



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700 Anchorage, AK 99501 907-269-7450 fax 907-269-7461 www.Gov.Alaska.Gov Governor@Alaska.Gov

January 23, 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 relating to the Alaska microloan revolving fund.

The Alaska microloan revolving fund exists to assist state residents with small business venture loans to facilitate entrepreneurial enterprise throughout the state, with a specific policy emphasis on job creation in rural communities.

This bill would improve the program by allowing a loan term for up to 15 years (as opposed to the current six years) and increase the interest rate from one percentage point above the prime rate to two percentage points above the prime rate. Further, the minimum interest rate would be modified to not less than four percent a year (rather than the current six percent a year). The maximum interest rate would remain eight percent a year.

These changes will allow the program to incentivize the startup and expansion of small and micro businesses, growing the small business sector while still protecting the state's financial interests.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure to create a Stronger Alaska.

El Walker

Sincerely,

Bill Walker Governor

Enclosure