



PEAK TRUST COMPANY

Elevated Trust & Wealth Management Solutions

February 20, 2020

Senator John Coghill
State Senate
State Capital Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Delivered by Email to Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Coghill,

On behalf of Peak Trust Company, we would like to emphasize the importance of Senate Bill 191 - *"An Act relating to trusts and trustees, including trust division, the powers of trustees, delayed gifts to trusts, and community property trusts; and providing for an effective date"* and Senate Bill 192 - *"An Act relating to fiduciary discretion and the allocation of capital gains to income under the Alaska Principal and Income Act."*

Since 1997, Alaska has been a leader in adopting laws to improve estate and tax planning options for both Alaskans and non-Alaskans. Senate Bills 191 and 192 are a continuation of this leadership as they expand and add clarification to our existing statutes. These distinctive statutes have provided Alaska with increased planning options for its citizens, revenue, job creation, and industry diversification for over 20 years. We believe that Senate Bills 191 and 192 will further these benefits to the State.

Senate Bills 191 and 192 look to update a number of existing statutes all related to trust and tax planning. All of these proposals, with the exception of the Alaska gift trust, would clarify certain aspects of Alaska law rather than adding new concepts to our statutes.

The Alaska Gift Trust is a unique idea that is not currently allowed under any other state law. This proposed measure would provide that a promise to make a gift to an Alaska Gift Trust is enforceable under Alaska law even if the promise is not backed by consideration (that is, the transfer of property or cash for the promise made). This will permit taxpayers throughout the United States to use their current estate and gift tax exemptions, which are at historic highs and may be reduced in the future, without having to give up the ownership of property until later when the promise is fulfilled.

The efforts of the Alaska Legislature over the past two decades to dedicate time to these important issues have benefitted Alaskans, has resulted in millions of dollars being deposited in financial institutions in the state which, in turn, have provided funding for Alaska businesses, and provided significant work for many Alaskans. We hope to see this success continue for years to come and thank you for your support in helping to achieve these benefits.

With this, we would like to voice our strong support for the ratification of Senate Bills 191 and 192.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Blattmachr
President & CEO
Peak Trust Company