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Representative Stutes
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801

March 9, 2020

RE: HB 273 Abandoned Vehicles

Dear Representative Stutes,

The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations, the council implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create economic opportunities that help make Juneau a great capital city; strengthen key regional industry; promote entrepreneurship and small business; develop talent; and deliver core economic development services.

Thank you for carrying HB 273, "An Act relating to vehicles abandoned on private property." Presently, under current state law, the period of time before a vehicle left on private property can be considered abandoned is six months, which is far too long. The private property owner either has to leave the abandoned car on their property for six months or pay to have it towed and secured in another location for six months until it can be declared "abandoned."

JEDC has organized meetings with Mendenhall Mall and Vintage Park business leaders. These meetings have included approximately 15 concerned business owners, property owners and law enforcement officials. During these meetings, one of the major topics brought up and discussed was that six months is too long to have to leave an abandoned vehicle on their property.

JEDC does not believe the six-month time frame is an appropriate length of time for a business owner to have to leave an eyesore of an abandoned car on their property, taking up valuable space. Their only other option is to have to pay to have the vehicle stored for six months, which also seems like an unreasonable burden for business and property owners.

For these reasons, JEDC support the bill to reduce the required time frame from six months to 45 days. Thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,



Brian Holst
Executive Director