



Alaska Society of CPAs  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 211  
Anchorage, AK 99503

January 20, 2021

Representative Steve Thompson  
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 204  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Thompson:

The Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA) currently has over 600 members that include students, educators, and CPAs and accountants in both public and private practice. Together we represent a wide array of Alaskan accounting professionals. The AKCPA's overall mission is the promotion, upgrading, perpetuation and unification of the accounting profession. To that end, we provide a variety of services to our members, the profession, and to the public. These services include continuing professional education; collection and dissemination of information on the profession to members; monitoring and influencing legislation and regulation by the government and the profession for the public convenience and welfare; collection and dissemination of general information and making Alaska a better business environment.

On behalf of our members, the AKCPA would like to express our support of the changes proposed in HB 44. We thank you for your continued efforts to protect the public interest and for ensuring that all licensees meet the appropriate standards of competency.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Stasia Straley*

Stasia Straley, CPA  
President, on behalf of the Alaska Society of CPAs

cc: Leslie Schmitz, Chair of the Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy  
Cori Hondolero, Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy  
Kathleen Thompson, Chair of the AKCPA Legislative Committee



February 17, 2021

Honorable Steve Thompson  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Thompson:

We write to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 44, which considers, and if passed, would adopt important updates to the regulation of the practice of accountancy in Alaska.

Founded in 1908, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) is dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness and advancing the common interests of the boards of accountancy from the 55 U.S. states and territories. The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is the world's largest member association representing the CPA profession, with more than 431,000 members in the United States and worldwide, and a history of serving the public interest since 1887.

Both NASBA and the AICPA support the mission of boards of accountancy to fulfill their public protection mandate and to ensure the credibility, validity, and reliability of the CPA license on which the public relies. These objectives are met through determining initial qualifications and licensing, rulemaking, setting the applicable technical and professional standards, requiring continued competency and compliance, and taking enforcement actions against CPAs who harm the public by violating these statutes and rules.

To facilitate consistency in the regulation of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) throughout the United States as well as interstate mobility, NASBA and the AICPA maintain and promote the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA), an evergreen model law developed to provide a comprehensive, uniform approach to regulation of the accounting profession.

The two concepts addressed in House Bill 44—Peer Review and Firm Mobility—are two major concepts modeled after UAA provisions:

**Peer Review:**

Under the UAA, a CPA firm must undergo a Peer Review every three years to receive or renew a CPA firm license. Peer Review plays a critical role in advancing the public protection mission of the CPA profession. One of its primary purposes is to protect members of the public who rely on the accuracy and quality of accounting and auditing services provided by CPAs, and to allow state boards of accountancy to ensure the quality of accounting and auditing services provided by licensed CPA firms.

Specifically, the Peer Review program helps to ensure that: CPA licensees develop appropriate procedures to maintain quality control over their work; CPA licensees are following quality control procedures in practice; and CPA licensees are complying with professional and ethical standards.

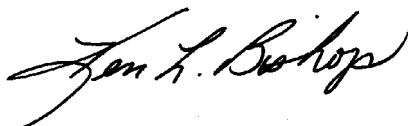
**Firm Mobility:**

Another UAA provision found in House Bill 44 is Firm Mobility. As of 2013, all jurisdictions in the continental U.S. had enacted individual CPA mobility laws. In 2014, the UAA was amended to forego out-of-state CPA firm registration requirements and fees so employees could perform attest services for clients wherever they were based. In addition to allowing CPA firms to freely practice in a jurisdiction without having to obtain an additional firm license, perhaps the strongest reason to support this legislation is in the addition of the “no escape” language that is the hallmark found in individual mobility. This language in the UAA states that an individual CPA, and the firm that employs that CPA, consent to the authority and jurisdiction of the board of accountancy in the mobility state. This allows a board to choose to process the complaint and seek discipline in its own jurisdiction, and/or to refer the complaint to the state board of the CPA’s home jurisdiction for further action. As of today, 30 jurisdictions have adopted the Firm Mobility language as found in the UAA, and three jurisdictions, including Alaska, have active Firm Mobility language filed in their legislatures.

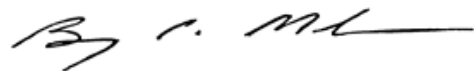
These concepts—Peer Review and Firm Mobility— ensure the public is adequately protected while lowering unnecessary barriers to practice across state lines. We support the provisions found in HB 44, and once again thank you for sponsoring this important legislation on behalf of the accounting profession in Alaska.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact John Johnson, Director, Legislative and Governmental Affairs at NASBA, at 615.880.4232 or [jjohnson@nasba.org](mailto:jjohnson@nasba.org); or James Cox, Associate Director, State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at the AICPA, at 202.434.9261 or [james.cox@aicpa-cima.com](mailto:james.cox@aicpa-cima.com).

Sincerely,



Ken L. Bishop  
President and CEO  
National Association of State Boards of Accountancy



Barry C. Melancon, CPA, CGMA  
President and CEO  
AICPA