



106 W Bunnell, Suite A | Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.bunnellarts.org](http://www.bunnellarts.org)

April 28, 2021

House State Affairs Committee

Re: HB 161

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 161 which mirrors SB 71 to help the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) better serve Alaska's communities and constituents. The Alaska State Council on the Arts has tremendous responsibility across our state. Creative communities contribute to vibrant economies, to our physical infrastructure, to pride of place, and to community well-being. The creative economy is a pillar of our overall state economy and particularly vital in recovering from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

HB 161 will enable ASCA to earn revenue specifically designated for ASCA by collecting a surcharge on Alaska Artistic License Plates. This program generates pride and puts Alaska artists to work. It also relieves pressure on the general budget by generating targeted revenue to earn the 1:1 match by the National Endowment by the Arts, which is further matched by private foundation support. Every Alaskan dollar is matched 4 to 1 (four!) by NEA and private foundation funds. HB 161 also adds transparency to ASCA's operations and frames how ASCA stewards public art created by the 1% for Art program.

ASCA is a small government agency with enormous impact across our State. I urge you to pass HB 161 to help this small-but-mighty organization serve Alaska with more transparency and less pressure on the general budget through a voluntary, revenue producing program that also brings pride to our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adele Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Adele Person  
Bunnell Street Arts Center  
Homer, Alaska