



Fairbanks North Star Borough

MAYOR'S OFFICE

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April 28, 2022

Representative Sara Hannan, Co-Chair
Representative Calvin Schrage, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
House Community & Regional Affairs

Submitted via email

RE: HB 411 Municipal Tax Exemptions/Deferrals
FNSB Support

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) supports HB 411. I wanted to express my thanks to Rep. Schrage for sponsoring the amendment to include language regarding economic development in this bill.

The FNSB Assembly identified defining economic development within Title 29 as a 2022 legislative priority. As with many communities, the FNSB experienced detrimental economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FNSB Economic Development Commission quickly began working on an Interior Alaska COVID-19 Economic Impact and Recovery Plan. Shortly thereafter, pandemic relief funds became available in a variety of ways. Due to our designation as a second-class borough, and without a state definition of economic development, we found it challenging to work through what programs and tools we were able to leverage to mitigate those impacts.

Providing a broad definition of economic development in Title 29 will help us leverage additional programs and tools to support our community and economy as we move beyond recovery and into growth and resiliency.

Sincerely,


[Bryce Ward \(Apr 28, 2022 15:03 AKDT\)](#)

Bryce J. Ward
Mayor

