

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** McCarthy Lodge Alaska Reservations [help@mccarthylodge.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 2:21 PM  
**To:** Konrad Jackson  
**Subject:** HB125 Testimony

Dear Konrad Jackson:

Thank you for taking the time to assist me in participating in the HB125 hearing on next Wednesday, February 9th. I wish to submitting the following testimony for the record on HB125.

The following is the testimony of Neil Darish, owner and COO of McCarthy Ventures LLC. Our tourism based operation is located in McCarthy Alaska.

We own and operate Nugget Liquors (a liquor store) and The New Golden Saloon, a full service bar and restaurant. I am a certified TAM instructor in the state of Alaska.

We also own and operate Hotel and other food service operations in McCarthy. We have owned and operated these businesses since 2001. In addition, we have a grocery and hardware store in this community. We employ 35 local and returning staff.

Regarding HB125:

1. Keeping the ABC board under the umbrella of "Public Safety" reinforces a pejorative approach to responsible businesses.

2. Few other legal commerce operations have the potential liability involved in a liquor operation. The inherent liability of liquor business, require responsible, professional approaches to business. We need the advocacy role of the ABC in commerce as a licensing division of the state.

3. The ABC role of determining who qualifies and can maintain a license is often seen as part of public safety when in fact it is an important bureaucratic function. While Public Safety is an assumed role for everyone involved in the industry from producer to customer, Public Safety Enforcement should be under the domain of law enforcement, not commerce facilitators.

The role of law enforcement is and should be the role of the state or local police or federal agents.

4. Maintaining the ABC board in the role of Public Safety instead of the proper role of Commerce facilitator places the licensing board in direct conflict with new and existing owners who have lots of questions on their road to creating a safe, profitable, sustainable business.

5. As a certified TAM instructor, my role in my community is to provide a safe, responsible, enjoyable experience for all my guests and to impart this responsibility to each new bartender or server. The ABC board is a critical resource for my business and the state of Alaska.

Neil