



Chapter 904 - Anchorage, Alaska "An Agenda of Service"

January 19, 2012

Senator Bill Weilechowski
Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Senator:

As you know we were very much involved in the development of a veteran jobs package in Washington, DC that was finally approved by the Congress and signed by the President. An important component of this package was a tax incentive for American businesses to hire veterans, with some additional incentives for disabled veterans. The incentives start at \$2,400 in the federal package.

Like so many Alaskans we have heard time and again about how imposing our state incorporation taxes are. So, in an effort to encourage Alaskan businesses to also hire veterans we were very pleased with your interest in an additional incentive, right here in Alaska to hire veterans.

We strongly support SB 136, and would suggest that the tax credit be at \$2,600. This would allow a combined tax credit (federal/state) of \$5,000 per veteran hired at a minim of 32 hours a week and retained for most of a year.

With the provision of SB 136, we have shared with bill with 48 other VVA State Council Presidents, and I can report that a number of them have asked their legislators to seriously consider doing the same.

With passage of this bill, Alaska will continue to be viewed nationally as a very veteran friendly state.

I wanted to again thank you for the Town Hall Meeting you and your colleagues held in east Anchorage last year. It was without question one of the best to date and I think those Members of the legislature who attended got something substantive out of it. Certainly SB 136 was one of those ideas presented at that meeting.

It is an honor,

Ric Davidge

President, VVA 904

Also: National Chairman, VVA Govt Affairs Cmte

Former National Chairman, VVA Economic Opportunities Cmte