

March 10, 2025

Representative Ky Holland  
Alaska Legislature  
State Capitol Room 418  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[rep.ky.holland@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.ky.holland@akleg.gov)

Representative Ashley Carrick  
Chair, House State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol Room 120  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov)

Dear Rep. Holland, Chair Carrick and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

**I am writing on behalf of Launch Alaska to express our strong support for House Bill 30**, which would establish an Office of Entrepreneurship at the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Launch Alaska's mission is to catalyze rapid innovation that strengthens energy, transportation, and industrial systems. State support for early-stage entrepreneurs is key to this mission.

By investing in entrepreneurship, we take a proactive step in diversifying Alaska's economy, growing Alaska jobs of the future, and securing long-term prosperity for our residents. This bill would be part of a comprehensive statewide economic development strategy aimed at creating new opportunities for Alaskans. By streamlining state support for startups and directing resources to new businesses, we empower innovators, reduce barriers to entry, and encourage homegrown success stories. Additionally, the office would produce an annual report for the legislature and governor describing how small businesses have been affected by legislation passed in the previous year.

As part of the Office of Entrepreneurship, HB 30 would require that state agencies must spend 5% of the total economic development budget each year to support programs or organizations that help new businesses in Alaska. And additionally, the bill would remove initial licensing fees for new businesses. These steps will accelerate economic growth and position Alaska as a leader in innovation.

With the Office of Entrepreneurship, we send a clear message: Alaska is open for business, and Alaskans don't have to leave the state to find opportunities in emerging sectors. Whether in technology, energy, manufacturing, or other high-growth sectors, this initiative will help ensure that Alaska remains home to the jobs of the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



**Penny Gage**  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
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