

March 4, 2024

Representative Jesse Sumner
Chairman, House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capital

Dear Chairman Sumner:

Thank you so much for holding a hearing on House Bill 189. We support the bill.

Holland America/Princess, Alaska, and Yukon (HAP) is a tour company that operates 8 hotels in Alaska, including the Princess Lodges in Denali, Trapper Creek, Copper Center, Cooper Landing and Fairbanks as well as the McKinley Chalet, the Westmark Inn Skagway and the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel. In these hotel properties, we operate 22 restaurants, 10 coffee stands and 9 employee dining facilities. For us to provide the service which visitors expect, we hire and train employees on what has become an almost year-round process. Like many other companies, and indeed industries, we have had issues securing enough labor to fulfill the needs of our many visitors.

We feel that HB189 would be a good step forward with helping to alleviate the ongoing labor shortage in the tourism industry. In addition, it would benefit the employees as well by allowing the high performers to obtain better positions, thus allowing the company to better utilize the skills of our many employees. We view this as a win-win. Many times, our best and brightest employees, that put in the most effort, are those that are shut out of server jobs because of the age requirement.

Thank you so much for hearing the bill and we hope for its passage.

Sincerely,



Ralph Samuels
Vice President
HAP

Cc: House Labor and Commerce Committee members