

GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Subject: Support for HB173 - An Act Relating to Public Construction Contracts

On behalf of the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce and its members, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 173 (HB173), titled "An Act relating to public construction contracts; and providing for an effective date." This legislative initiative marks a significant step forward in refining the framework governing public construction contracts in Alaska, and it promises to foster a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable construction industry within our state.

The amendment to increase the applicability threshold of public construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$150,000 under AS 36.05.005 is a commendable adjustment. It reflects a realistic understanding of the current economic conditions and construction costs, ensuring that small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are not unduly burdened by stringent requirements on smaller projects. This change is anticipated to enhance efficiency, reduce administrative overhead for both businesses and the state, and open up opportunities for more local contractors to participate in public construction projects.

This legislative proposal aligns with our Chamber's mission to promote economic growth and prosperity in Wasilla and the wider Alaskan region. By adjusting the applicability threshold, HB173 acknowledges the vital role that the construction industry plays in our local economy. It ensures that public projects can be executed more swiftly and cost-effectively, benefiting our community at large through improved infrastructure and job creation. We believe that the enactment of this bill will bring about positive outcomes for the construction sector, contribute to the economic resilience of Alaska, and ultimately enhance the quality of life for its residents.

We urge all members of the House State Affairs Committee to support HB173 and facilitate its swift passage through the legislative process. Together, we can build a stronger foundation for the future of Alaska's construction industry and its contribution to our economy.

Thank you for considering our support for HB173. We are eager to see the positive impacts this act will have on our community and the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jessica Viera, CEO, Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce

