

March 20, 2025

To: Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee
From: Americans for Tax Reform
Re: **Support SB 107**

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and our supporters across Alaska, I urge you to support SB 107, legislation that would create a “Sunset Commission” with a mandate to audit state agencies and develop recommendations for improvement. **If enacted, this bill could save your state tens of millions of dollars while trimming unnecessary bureaucracy that is hampering growth.**

Overcoming emotional obstacles to enact needed spending reform can be a challenge. Spending cuts typically involve rescinding government handouts and subsidies, which can be politically painful.

On the other hand, SB 107 reduces the size of government via an objective, internal drive toward efficiency. In similar form to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in Washington, D.C., the proposed Sunset Commission takes government off autopilot and supplies transparent recommendations for cuts in bill form, ready for a hearing.

In many ways, the commission as currently structured would stand out as an improvement on DOGE. **Empaneling certified experts, allowing for public testimony, and producing concrete recommendations that improve agency operations create a structured and prudent approach that other states around the country could emulate.** In fact, many states are attempting their own departments or committees on government efficiency – yet none come close to matching the quality and lasting nature of the reforms proposed in SB 107.

Future legislatures and governors will likely also appreciate the work done by the Sunset Commission. Creating any budget, of course, is a time-consuming and difficult process in which much can be overlooked. The audits undertaken by the proposed commission arms those in charge of state finances with more complete information as they allocate billions of public dollars.

Moreover, by keeping spending in check, the Sunset Commission’s annual reviews can help preempt new tax burdens on families and businesses in Alaska. Reining in agency growth now, rather than waiting until the only alternative is a statewide tax or other harmful levy expansion, is crucial.

The job of reining in government spending and bureaucracy must be undertaken one step at a time. In light of the budget deficit you are facing this session, it is more important than ever to establish proper oversight of bureaucrats in Juneau and beyond. **For these reasons, ATR strongly supports SB 107.**

Sincerely,



Grover G. Norquist
President
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