



Jacqueline Summers, Executive Director
jacqueline@healthtie.org

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Ky Holland and The 34th Alaska Legislature
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: House Bill 30 and 34: supporting Alaska entrepreneurs and the Alaska startup ecosystem

Dear Representative Holland and the 34th Alaska Legislature:

As Co-Founder of Health TIE, an Alaskan healthcare innovation hub, and a long-time participant in the Alaskan entrepreneurial community, I am in full support of your efforts, along with others, to increase resources for innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses in Alaska.

Health TIE creates opportunities for innovators - both within Alaska and outside - to assist health and social service organizations reduce costs while improving access to care. Some of the successful pilot projects we've launched include:

- MapHabit, a program that assists with independence for those with Traumatic Brain Injuries, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Alzheimer's and Dementia
- OpiAID, a technology that uses biometric data to assist those going through Opioid Disorder Treatment
- Pear Suite, a technology that helps Community Health Workers connect their clients to resources.

Healthcare innovators are passionate about solving difficult health and social challenges, but often face an uphill battle against inertia and bureaucracy. One of the best ways to invest in our communities is to invest in the projects and people who are driven to make them better.

After 20+ years supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem, I can tell you creating spaces and opportunities for innovators to build their ideas pays off exponentially. If we want to invest in the future of Alaska, one of the best places to start is by helping those brave enough to put a new service, product, or company into the world.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Summers". The signature is written in a dark, fluid ink.

Jacqueline Summers

February 12, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I'm writing to support House Bill 34 with amendments. Alaska has a unique opportunity to invest in the innovation ecosystem - the foundation of economic development - in a way that is aligned with the natural environment. Governors such as Jay Hammond and Wally Hickel understood the importance of integrating environmental sustainability with a stable economy. Jobs and nature are not separate; they are symbiotic, required for each to thrive.

Sustainable innovation is the foundation of a healthy economy and environment for current and future generations of Alaskans. Alaska needs funding for programs, events, research and development to grow our sustainable innovation ecosystem. We need to bring stakeholders together to share learning and advance our common sustainable development goals.

Alaska can be a global leader in sustainable innovation. We have an opportunity in the sustainable development of the oceans, i.e. the 'blue economy', including fisheries and mariculture. We have an opportunity to develop clean, renewable energy for micro grids. Alaska has an opportunity to develop frontline solutions to climate change. Finally, Alaska Native heritage provides a unique opportunity to incorporate indigenous worldviews and traditional ecological knowledge into the innovation ecosystem.

In conclusion, I support House Bill 34 with amendments to establish an Alaska Sustainable Innovation Council and include additional stakeholders, provisions and terms that integrate local, sustainable, climate-friendly, and regenerative principles and practices.

Sincerely,

Joel Cladouhos

SEAMARK

11471 Business Blvd Unit 206
Anchorage, Alaska 99577

February 12, 2025

To the 34th Alaska State Legislature:

I support the passage of House Bill 34, “An act establishing an Alaska Innovation Council,” currently before the House Labor and Commerce Committee.

HB 34 solves two problems. First, it addresses the lack of coordination between state agencies, the university, RDCs, and other organizations with regards to technological innovation and economic development across Alaska. For too long, this lack of coordination has hampered efforts to commercialize cutting-edge research, retain high-growth startups, and attract investment to the state.

And second, HB 34 will encourage the adoption of smart, flexible, and fair policies to support emerging industries. By recommending policies to identify and expand research, promote development, and attract investment to the state, HB 34 ensures Alaska has a strong economic foundation for generations to come.

As a startup founder, venture investor, and former director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation’s Startup Accelerator, I am encouraged by the introduction of HB 34. If there is anything I can do to further support its passage, please feel free to contact me at taylor@seamark.co.

Very Respectfully,



Taylor Drew Holshouser
Co-founder of Seamark

CC:

Representative Ky Holland
State Capitol Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801

Troy Vosseller

821 E Washington Ave, Ste 200-G

Madison, WI 53703

troy@gener8tor.com

February 7, 2025

Honorable Members of the State of Alaska's 34th Legislature

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislators,

As the Co-founder of gener8tor, a nationally recognized startup accelerator network that has helped 1,500+ startups grow and secure more than \$2.2B in funding, I strongly support House Bill 34, introduced by Representative Ky Holland. Establishing the Alaska Innovation Council is a necessary step to cultivate entrepreneurship, fuel economic growth and drive innovation in Alaska.

Since 2021, gener8tor has worked with Alaskan founders through the gBETA Alaska accelerator, helping 30 startups raise over \$5.5 million and create or sustain 91 jobs. Through this work, we have gained firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities unique to Alaskan entrepreneurs, reinforcing the importance of a structured, statewide effort to support and scale innovation.

At gener8tor, we work with early-stage companies across diverse industries, guiding them from concept to scale. One critical factor in a startup's success is a strong support network—access to capital, mentorship, and infrastructure that fosters innovation. HB 34 directly addresses this need by assembling a council of experienced investors, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to advise on best practices, enhance commercialization efforts, and promote capital formation in Alaska.

Alaska's unique industries present major growth opportunities. This council will help develop them while ensuring all entrepreneurs—rural and urban—have equitable access to resources. By fostering research commercialization, seed-stage funding, and startup ecosystem development, HB 34 paves the way for sustainable jobs and long-term economic prosperity.

I urge the Alaska legislature to support House Bill 34 and take a proactive stance in fostering innovation-driven economic development in Alaska. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to growing opportunities for entrepreneurs in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Vosseller", written over a horizontal line.

Troy Vosseller

Co-founder, gener8tor

February 23, 2025

To the 34th Alaska State Legislature:

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation supports House Bill 34, “An Act establishing an Alaska Innovation Council.” This legislation represents a crucial step forward in fostering technological innovation, commercialization, and economic development in Alaska. By encouraging greater cooperation and coordination through the Alaska Innovation Council, we can create a structured and forward-thinking approach to support emerging industries, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Alaska has a unique opportunity to leverage cutting-edge innovations in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and automation and apply them to seafood harvesting, processing, and value-added production. A dedicated Innovation Council would build upon the work of the AFDF Startup Accelerator and other programs and provide the necessary leadership between state agencies, private industry, academic institutions, and community stakeholders. This effort would help bridge the gap between ideas and implementation, ensuring that Alaska remains competitive in an ever-changing global marketplace.

Furthermore, HB 34 would support job creation and talent retention by fostering a startup ecosystem that encourages research, development, and investment in new technologies. From surimi to miso-marinated black cod, Alaskan fishermen, processors, and value-added producers have shown tremendous ingenuity and grit, and this legislation would empower them with the resources and infrastructure required to drive continued growth.

I urge the members of the 34th Legislature to support HB 34 and recognize the potential it holds for the future of our state. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to ensuring Alaska has a strong economic foundation for future generations. Please feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance in advocating for this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Kristy Clement
CEO of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation



ALASKA FISHERIES

Development Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 22050, Juneau, AK 99802 Ph: 907-276-7315

www.afdf.org

March 10, 2025

Representative Ky Holland
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 418
Juneau AK, 99801
rep.ky.holland@akleg.gov

Co-Chairs Foster, Josephson and Schrage
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801
House.Finance@akleg.gov

Dear Rep. Holland, Co-Chairs Foster, Josephson and Schrage, and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Launch Alaska to express our strong support for House Bill 34 which would establish the Alaska Innovation Council. Launch Alaska's mission is to catalyze rapid innovation that strengthens energy, transportation, and industrial systems. The Alaska Innovation Council's goal of accelerating the growth of emerging industries and diversification of Alaska's economy is directly aligned with this mission.

By fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, this bill aims to inform public policy and leverage state, public and private resources. The outcome will be measured by diversification of the economy and growth of emerging sector GDP, new business formation and investment capital, job creation, retention of Alaskans, and attracting new business and their associated jobs to Alaska. At Launch Alaska we know that startup companies have the ability to catalyze economic growth for entire regions of the state. Having an aligned vision and goals for the State of Alaska to support these companies is critical for Alaska's competitiveness in the global economy.

Additionally, we would like to suggest a change to the bill as it currently stands in the Committee Substitute for House Bill 34 (Labor & Commerce). We suggest the following change in the bill text (in yellow):

- (3) seven members appointed by the governor who are experienced entrepreneurs, experienced investors, engaged in emerging industry operations in the state, or engaged in a growth business in the state; the members appointed under this paragraph must include
- (C) one member who is experienced and active in **angel** investing;

This change would open up this seat to allow different types of early-stage investment expertise on the Council, including venture capital, crowdfunding, and more. We believe this better reflects the broad suite of funding options for early-stage companies, allowing for well-rounded decision making that is informed by private markets.

Sincerely,



Penny Gage
Chief Policy & Partnerships Officer
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