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Senator Mia Costello
State Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 142

Dear Senator Costello:

I wish to respectfully share my opposition to House Bill 142. Midnight Sun Home Care Inc has been employing Alaskans for over 15 years. We currently employ 105 workers. We are a private company and I am a 50-year Alaskan.

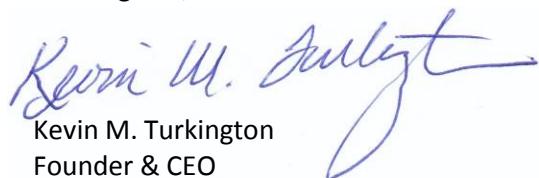
House Bill 142 would increase the unemployment benefit and, consequently, the tax on small Alaskan businesses. It further provides future increases which would be moved outside the legislative process.

Alaska is in a recession that is slowing businesses in Alaska, making it more difficult to remain in business, let alone, expand business. Our clients are very aware of this and spending less, even when their independence, quality of life, and safety is at stake.

Thus, it is not a time to add additional taxes to struggling businesses. In markets that dictate a ceiling on what you can charge and a floor on what you need to pay to stay competitive and viable, increasing the costs of labor is both a business and a job killer.

In the past, there has been restructuring of the program to minimize the potential increase in the tax rate. There are no such changes included in this proposal. I strongly oppose the Section 2 as it cedes any future increases to a regulatory formula rather than being considered by the legislature. Allowing programs to grow without legislative review is poor public policy. Further, it prevents a discussion of the wisdom of those of us that shape and grow the economy and how it is affected by such changes.

Kind regards,


Kevin M. Turkington
Founder & CEO

