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Dear Senator Costello,

April 9, 2018

I am writing today to encourage you to pass HB 142, related to increasing the maximum weekly benefit for unemployment insurance (UI), out of your Committee and on to the Senate Floor for a vote before the end of this session. Alaska is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States and yet we rank 37th in the nation in maximum weekly UI benefit amount. It is clearly time to increase this and HB 142 would increase the maximum weekly payout from \$370 to \$510.

This will also have the benefit of helping highly-skilled crafts people stay in Alaska during downturns in our economy instead of leaving our state to chase jobs in other areas of our country. As a construction contractor this is very important to me because this means that these highly-skilled workers will be available here in Alaska when things turn around economically in our State and we will be less likely to face a critical shortage of qualified workers when we need them most. Passing this Bill will be good for both workers and businesses here in Alaska. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I can be reached at bstubbs@kccorporation.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stubbs', written over a horizontal line.

Brett Stubbs

Estimator, KC Corporation