



March 3, 2022

Submitted via email

Dear Chair Edgmon, Vice Chair Stutes, and members of the Alaska House Rules Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce requests your support of HB30 (as revised) as an incremental step in correcting the balances within the Worker’s Compensation System. The Chamber has advocated for workers’ compensation reform for a number of years. While the current worker’s compensation system is ripe for comprehensive rewrites, it is not likely to happen until the state’s budget issues have been more thoroughly addressed.

The version of HB30 that passed out of the House Finance Committee on February 28, 2022 represents a small but important step towards improvement to the system. We appreciate the Committee’s efforts and Representative Josephson’s willingness to work with business in revising the bill.

Removing Sections 1 and 3 as originally drafted resolves concerns about a clear path to compliance for employers. The remaining Sections 2 and 4 are an overdue “catch-up” to adjust for the time value of these benefits, an unfortunate ongoing challenge within Alaska statutes. It is important that the effective date not be retroactive, and the correction to 2023 is appropriate.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 650 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people utilize to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

Jinnel Choiniere  
President/CEO

Jennifer Thompson  
Board Chair

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