

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

SB 125 Alaska Aerospace Corporation

"An Act changing the name of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation to Alaska Aerospace Corporation."

Senate Bill 125 simply seeks to change the name of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation to the Alaska Aerospace Corporation.

"Development" gives the perception that the organization is a non-profit administrative body that simply encourages aerospace development in Alaska, rather than an organization that owns and operates space launch facilities that are fully developed and capable of launching rockets as large as the Minotaur IV.

There are an increasing number of state sponsored aerospace development organizations that have been established in the lower 48 (California, Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia) that fit the "development" mold. They have some facilities, and they all work hard to develop aerospace incentives within the individual states, but they all have limited hands-on rocket launch experience.

The launch site in Kodiak is operational, functioning and self supporting, in that no Alaska General Fund appropriations are needed for operations and maintenance of the site. The site has had 14 successful launches since November 1998. The corporation's title needs to reflect these facts and this name change will help the organization meet its 21st century goals.

The new title, Alaska Aerospace Corporation, is unambiguous about their capabilities and will improve their ability to offer launch services to the national and international aerospace market.

This name change will further assist the corporation in securing launch and other aerospace related contracts that generate significant economic benefits to Alaska by providing long-term, high paying, stable jobs; by providing local economic diversity; and by creating short-term benefits from projects and construction activities.

I urge your support of this legislation.