



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 f: 907.562.0438 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

March 16, 2010

Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee

Re: Support of HB 363

Dear Representative Olson,

Please accept this letter of support for House Bill 363, which would rearrange the composition of the AIDEA/AEA board membership. Most successful economic development initiatives occur because of strong public/private partnerships, and one of the keys to this success lies in valuable private sector input.

Passage of HB 363 would increase the number of AIDEA's public board members from two to four, with the possibility of a fifth public member currently in the bill's amendment. Raising this level of private sector involvement would lead to more fruitful and informed discussions about current economic conditions and desires among the business community.

AIDEA is meant to promote and advance economic growth and diversification in the state of Alaska. True economic development is best served by private investment and public knowledge and innovation. By changing the board composition to more accurately reflect this sentiment, the state's economic development organization can have a more direct line to industry needs and private sector capacity.

I would urge you to consider the value of HB 363 and what it could mean for the State of Alaska's role in economic development.

Regards,
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Varner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Varner
Executive Director



March 16, 2010

Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB363 "An Act relation to the membership of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

Southeast Conference strongly supports House Bill 363. The private sector is the backbone of Alaska's economy. The State economic development process has historically had little private sector input. This legislation will allow flexibility within the makeup of AIDEA to incorporate more private sector participation in State economic development decisions.

Southeast Conference is a private membership organization that works to advance the collective interests of the people, communities, and businesses of Southeast Alaska. It is the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), Federal Economic Development District (EDD), and USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council for the region. The Conference's Mission is to help develop strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Please adopt HB363 for the future of our communities and our state.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors,

Shelly Wright
Executive Director



The Entrepreneurs and Mentors Network Inc.

Mentors empowering Entrepreneurs

Colin V. Palmer

Executive Director

(907)-862-5160

colinvpalmer@yahoo.com

Allan R Johnston

Chief Encouragement Officer

(907) 727-1187

allanrjohnston@yahoo.com

March 16th, 2010

Re: House Bill 363 AIDEA Board

Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Olson,

Please accept this letter of support for HB 363. I believe that AIDEA needs to become more proactive in evaluating and implementing new programs to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship in Alaska. We are the only state that doesn't have an organized Angel Investor network. We are one of only a few states that doesn't have a Small Business Investment Corporation, a business incubator or a business accelerator. Including more private sector experts with been-there-done-that experience will significantly enhance AIDEA's opportunity in identifying our financial infrastructure problems and addressing our needs.

If the Milken Risk Capital and Entrepreneurial Infrastructure Composite Index were considered a reasonable proxy of our Aspiration Index, which I believe that it does, then Alaskans are in last place nationally in dreaming dreams for our own destiny. AIDEA should be a more important and relevant player in addressing this problem. If we do not see our last place standing as a problem then there is no solution. I believe a more private sector oriented AIDEA Board would be more effective in diversifying the Alaska economy and empowering innovative entrepreneurs.

Respectfully,

Allan R. Johnston
Chief Encouragement Officer
The Entrepreneurs and Mentors Network Inc

P.O. Box 244821, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-4821

Enabling mentors to empower entrepreneurs

www.teamak.com



Colin V. Palmer
Executive Director

(907)-862-5160
colinvpalmer@yahoo.com

Allan R Johnston
Chief Encouragement Officer

(907) 727-1187
allanrjohnston@yahoo.com

State Technology and Science Index

Enduring Lessons for the Intangible Economy
June 2008

Risk Capital and Entrepreneurial Infrastructure Composite Index

This measures the stock of capable entrepreneurs and risk capital available to support the conversion of research into commercially viable technology products and services. Eleven indicators are included in this Composite Index, listed at the bottom of this page. Click on an indicator to see further data comparisons at the individual indicator level.

Select a Composite Select a State

2008			2004			2002		
State	Rank	Average Score	State	Rank	Average Score	State	Rank	Average Score
Nebraska	44	38.60	Alabama	44	30.22	Alaska	44	29.33
Montana	45	38.57	Iowa	45	28.67	Kentucky	45	27.56
North Dakota	46	36.25	Montana	46	27.56	Wyoming	46	27.33
Iowa	47	34.22	Alaska	47	24.67	Arkansas	47	18.44
West Virginia	48	32.18	Kentucky	48	23.78	West Virginia	48	18.00
Mississippi	49	30.40	Mississippi	49	22.22	South Dakota	49	15.33
Alaska	50	21.71	North Dakota	50	16.22	North Dakota	50	9.78

- Average Annual SBIC Funds Disbursed per \$1,000 of GSP
- Increase in Number of Companies Receiving VC Investment
- IPO Proceeds as Percent of GSP
- Number of Business Incubators per 10,000 Business Establishments
- Number of Business Starts per 100,000 People
- Number of Companies Receiving VC Investment per 10,000 Business Establishments
- Patents Issued per 100,000 People
- Total Venture Capital Investment Growth
- VC Investment in Clean Technology per \$1,000 of GSP
- VC Investment in Nanotechnology per \$1,000 of GSP
- Venture Capital Investment as Percent of GSP

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/tech/tech.taf?sub=rcic>