



February 7, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson
State Capitol Room 24
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Olson:

My name is Rich Sayers and I am the president of a local corporation that owns and operates the lease for Anchorage Golf Course. We have been the leaseholder since May 2008 and have made various improvements and instituted programs to grow the game of golf.

I am writing in support of HB 213 because it finally gives us an opportunity to fairly compete with the golf courses on federal lands. I appreciate the challenges of protecting our youth from exposure to alcohol and agree with the language that minors under 16 have parental consent to enter and remain on the premises, but request removal of the language that requires minors under the age of 16 to be accompanied by a person over the age of 21.

We have a junior golf program that we have worked extensively to grow and encourage our youth to get out and enjoy the game of golf with their friends and family. We have a thriving 1st Tee program, junior clinics and events that attract youth ages 5 and up. While most activities have a coach or instructor present, we do encourage our youth to get out on the course and practice and play the game of golf with their peers. Having to be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21 puts another challenging hurdle for our youth to enjoy our facilities and golf. I put myself through college on a golf scholarship after starting the game when I was 10 years old. This never would have happened if I didn't spend countless hours on the golf course without my parents or other guardians.

We have trained staff on the course at all times that facilitate pace of play and assist players of all ages during their time on the golf course as well as trained and credentialed staff operating the food and beverage carts. Minors on the course are not accompanied, but they are certainly supervised and monitored.

I am available for any further comment or discussion on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rich Sayers".

Rich Sayers
General Manager
907-522-3425

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