

January 30, 2014

Representative Steve Thompson
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 223

Dear Representative Thompson,

I am writing in support of your proposed legislation House Bill 223.

The Military Industry is one of the largest industries in the State of Alaska, contributing 17% of Alaska's Gross State Product and 20% of Alaska's Labor Dollars. This is a substantial contribution but in our community, the statistics are overwhelming: the Military Industry in Fairbanks contributes 30% of our Gross Community Product and 38% of our total Labor Dollars.

The impact and the potential for economic growth associated with this industry have been long overlooked in Alaska. Your legislation from the 27th Legislature, HB 316 (establishing Military Facility Zones), coupled with HB 223 (an Act authorizing municipalities to exempt, or partially exempt, property in a military facility zone for up to 10 years) create an opportunity for private investment and private industry to better partner with the Military Industry in our State and our Communities; thus creating more jobs for Alaskans and helping assure Alaska's economic future.

I commend you for your initiative in sponsoring HB 223. I appreciate your continued support of this vital statewide industry and I urge the support of your fellow legislators.

Thank you,



Jim Dodson,
President & CEO
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation