



February 18, 2014

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Alaska State Senate  
Chairman, Health and Social Services  
State Capitol, Room 30  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill 151

Dear Senator Stedman:

The mission of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across Alaska. Our members support legislation that updates and clarifies laws, provides regulatory certainty, and that generally improves Alaska's business climate. The Alaska Chamber supports the passage of the national Chemical Safety Improvement Act (CSIA), but opposes Senate Bill 151 (SB 151).

The Alaska Chamber supports protecting public health and the environment through reasonable, carefully considered programs that are developed and implemented based on sound scientific arguments, credible, reproducible studies and economic analysis. We believe it is important that consumers in Alaska and across the country can feel confident in the use of chemicals in commerce. Given the interdependence of commerce throughout the United States, it is important that businesses have regulatory certainty across states for the sale of goods. Additionally, we believe it is *past* time for our nation's chemical laws to be updated. For all these reasons, the Alaska Chamber supports the national bipartisan CSIA.

The Alaska Chamber opposes SB 151 mainly because it employs the precautionary principle. The precautionary principle is well intentioned but needlessly threatens the availability of goods for Alaskans and the viability of Alaska businesses. The precautionary principle presumes that chemicals pose a risk to health and the environment, even without the presence of scientific evidence that such risks are in fact present or related to a specific activity, or product, and requires precautionary measures be adopted or implemented to mitigate those assumed risks.



Another concern we have with SB 151 is how the proposed list of chemicals will be used by the State of Alaska, and in conjunction with federal laws. An uncertain regulatory environment does not allow businesses to plan and thus artificially stymies growth. Thank you for your consideration of our concern with SB 151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachael Petro'.

Rachael Petro  
President/CEO

Cc: The Honorable Peter Micciche, Vice Chair, Health & Social Services Committee  
The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Member, Health & Social Services Committee  
The Honorable Pete Kelly, Member, Health & Social Services Committee  
The Honorable Johnny Ellis, Member, Health & Social Services Committee