



## KENAI PENINSULA TOURISM MARKETING COUNCIL

*March 19, 2014*

**RE: SUPPORT OF HB 309**

To The Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of our staff, board of directors and membership, I am writing to voice the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council's support of HB 309.

In recent years craft beverage makers have become increasingly popular among residents and visitors on the Kenai Peninsula and throughout Alaska.

The ability of these small businesses to conduct activities such as tours, tastings and direct, on-site retail sales is vital to the continued growth of this emerging market sector.

The passage of HB 309 will modernize our state's regulation of distilleries and put Alaska's small distillers on an equal footing with local wine and beer makers.

Artisan Alaskan distilleries buy local, generate Alaskan-made exports and contribute to the tourism industry of our state. By passing HB 309 the 28<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature has the opportunity to help level the playing field for these entrepreneurs as they compete with larger producers from out of state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shanon Hamrick'.

Shanon Hamrick  
*Executive Director*