



February 11, 2013

Rep. Dan Saddler
State Capitol Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Dan Saddler,

As the largest tour operator in the State of Alaska, we would like to voice our support for the passage of HB46. Holland America Princess (HAP Alaska/Yukon) employs nearly 400 motorcoach drivers. We rely on this cadre of trained and skilled drivers as an essential part of delivering the visitor experience. However, finding skilled drivers can be a challenge, especially due to the seasonality of the tourist season in Alaska. Passage of HB46 would expand the pool of eligible drivers and ease the burden of testing for those with certain military commercial motor vehicle experience.

Both Holland America Line and Princess Cruises have a long history of supporting those in uniform – from recruiting at veteran and military job fairs, to our hiring practices, to providing donations during the holidays, to employees volunteering at military appreciation events. Last fall, HAP Alaska was recognized by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESRG) and Stand Down (an event organized by the Veterans Administration) for their support of active, reserve, and retired military.

Alaska tops the list as having a veteran population of 14 percent - nearly double that of the rest of the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. HB46 supports the efforts of community members who work to develop and promote a culture of support in the private sector. This bill along with the efforts of corporations to hire the military, are essential components to serving those who serve us at home and abroad.

Thank you for your time and for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Bustamante".

Bruce Bustamante
HAP Alaska/Yukon, Princess Cruises
VP, Community & Public Affairs
Direct: (907) 264-8044