

**Kirk Wickersham
Attorney at Law
Real Estate Broker
280 W. 34th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

907-561-3726

March 4, 2013

Rep. Bob Lynn
Alaska House of Representatives
Room 108 State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99801

Sen. Lesil Mcguire
Alaska State Senate
Room 103 State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 153

Dear Lesil and Bob,

I am writing you in support of HB 153, which would rename the Minnesota Bypass as the Walter J. Hickel Expressway.

I grew up in Minnesota and have absolutely nothing against the state of Minnesota. However, the current name of this highway is based solely on the fact that it was Minnesota St., rather than one of the other state-name streets in Spenard, that got widened and upgraded 30 years ago. In other words, it holds no special significance.

On the other hand, Walter Hickel does hold special significance to our city and state. Twice elected governor, and appointed Secretary of the Interior, Gov. Hickel is the highest ranking public official in the history of the state. Moreover, Governor Hickel was a leader in the private sector after the '64 earthquake, was instrumental in creating Commonwealth North and the Institute of the North, and was instrumental in developing the concept of the Owner State and other public policy initiatives.

Naming this highway after Governor Hickel would be a fitting and well-deserved tribute to a leading public citizen. Thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Kirk Wickersham