



Alaska Chapter

March 29, 2013

Representative Hawker

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Alaska (ABC of Alaska), I would like to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 4. We commend you, the Alaska Gas Pipeline Development Corporation Team, the Alaska Legislature and the Parnell Administration on your continuing efforts to provide energy to Alaska and specifically in your pursuit of natural gas for Alaska.

Be it ASAP Project, a large diameter natural gas pipeline, hydro, geothermal, increased production of gas or most likely some combination of all of the above, Alaska's policy leaders need to pursue paths that lead to reasoned and informed decisions and action. It is imperative to the residents of our state and Alaska's economy to have access to reliable, affordable energy.

ABC of Alaska supports progressing the ASAP Project as outlined in House Bill 4 and encourages legislative action to ensure the project progresses.

As a trade association that represents contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and construction related firms across Alaska, we are particularly interested in contracting procurement strategies. We share and applaud the commitment AGDC has made to maximize local hire.

With regard to local Alaska hire we encourage you to consider two items:

1. Consider the possibility of leveraging the state's financial contributions to the project to require application of resident employment preferences in AS 36.10.150; and
2. Consider asserting the application of prevailing wages standard up front.

We recognize focus on the workforce and employment issues may seem premature, but we believe addressing some of these concerns now, will provide Alaska businesses and workers with an assurance of open and fair practices; thus allowing AGDC to focus on completing the design, engineering and permitting phases of the project.

ABC of Alaska strongly opposes any effort to exclude non-union Alaska businesses and non-union Alaska workers from the construction project. Alaskans, union and non-union, should be allowed to compete for work equally.

We look forward to assisting in furthering this project and appreciate your efforts in trying to ensure Alaskans have affordable energy as a foundation for jobs and an economy for many years to come.

Amy Nibert
President/CEO
ABC of Alaska