



KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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January 24, 2013

Senator Gary Stevens
State of Alaska 28th Legislature
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Stevens,

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce supports S.B. 24 – a bill expanding the Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) from 11 seats to 12, providing the Southcentral Region with an additional seat.

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce's membership includes over 350 individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the Kodiak region. The Chamber promotes the development of a strong and diverse economy for the region. The Alaska Marine Highway system is a vital link in our economy, transporting people, goods and vehicles to and from the mainland and many communities throughout the region.

Currently, representation for western Alaska on the MTAB is covered by a Prince William Sound/Kenai Peninsula seat and a Southwest Alaska seat for 18 communities from Cordova to Dutch Harbor. The Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of an additional seat on the MTAB that would represent the Southern Kenai and Kodiak areas. These regions consist of 6 communities including: Kodiak, Homer, Seldovia, Port Lions, Ouzinkie, and Old Harbor. By adding one additional representative for this area, the state would have a total of three representatives for the 18 Western communities currently served by AMHS. This greater level of representation on the MTAB is vital for a better understanding of regional needs, and matching those needs with the outstanding service provided by the M/V Tustumena and M/V Kennicott.

We believe that the additional representation, provided by in S.B. 24, is vital to MTAB's responsiveness to our region. Understanding our region, coupled with AMHS service will provide us additional tools that will contribute to regional economic growth and development. We would like to encourage all State Senators and Representatives to vote for S.B. 24.

Yours in economic prosperity,



Lindsay Knight
President - Kodiak Chamber of Commerce

Dedicated to Kodiak's Economic Future