



January 26, 16

The Honorable Mia Costello  
Alaska State Senate  
Chairman, Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol, Room 510 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill 111

Dear Senator Costello: *Mia*

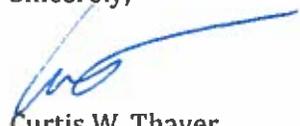
The mission of the Alaska Chamber is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across Alaska. Our members support legislation that updates and clarifies laws while providing regulatory certainty, and that generally improves Alaska's business climate.

The Alaska Chamber supports protecting public health and the environment through reasonable, carefully considered programs that are developed and implemented based on sound scientific arguments, credible, reproducible studies and economic analysis. We believe it is important that consumers in Alaska and across the country can feel confident in the use of chemicals in commerce. Given the interdependence of commerce throughout the United States, it is important that businesses have regulatory certainty across all states for the sale of goods. We believe it is *past* time for our nation's chemical laws to be updated. For all these reasons, the Alaska Chamber supports an update to federal law over state law.

The Alaska Chamber opposes SB 111 mainly because it employs the precautionary principle. The precautionary principle is well intentioned but needlessly threatens the availability of goods for Alaskans and the viability of Alaska businesses. The precautionary principle presumes that chemicals pose a risk to health and the environment, even without the presence of scientific evidence that such risks are in fact present or related to a specific activity, or product, and requires precautionary measures be adopted or implemented to mitigate those assumed risks.

Another concern we have with SB 111 is how the proposed list of chemicals will be used by the State of Alaska, and in conjunction with federal laws. An uncertain regulatory environment does not allow businesses to plan and thus artificially stymies growth. Thank you for your consideration of our concern with SB 111.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis W. Thayer  
President & CEO

*Thanks!*