



Alaska Historical Society

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Representative Bob Herron
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Herron,

Thank you for sponsoring HB 52. This bill promises to markedly improve the ability of Alaska museums to exhibit and care for collections, educate the public about our great state, and serve as anchors within our communities.

The Alaska Historical Society strongly endorses HB 52. In fact, the board of directors has passed a resolution supporting a museum capital project bill. Members of the Alaska Historical Society from around the state will benefit from HB52, since our members live in the many communities with museums and cultural centers that are preparing for capital projects over the next few years. Our members serve as staff, volunteers, visitors, and researchers at museums that will benefit from HB 52. Moreover, the Alaska Historical Society is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history of Alaska, and these Alaskan institutions serve as frontline guardians of this heritage that we treasure so dearly. They require facilities that provide the optimum environment for preserving collections with sufficient space to accommodate the acquisition of new collections. Alaska's history deserves to be highlighted in engaging and innovative exhibition spaces, which this bill will also help to facilitate.

In 2017, Alaska will be commemorating the 150 year anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska. In fact, it was at the 100 year anniversary of this same event that many of Alaska's museums and cultural centers were first funded and founded. Now, nearly fifty years later, in honor of this milestone in our history, it is imperative that Alaska again invests in the cultural infrastructure of our state. HB 52 provides a pathway to do just that. It ensures that Alaska's history and culture is cared for, cherished, and utilized by Alaskans and visitors alike, at the time of the 150th anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska and far into the future.

Sincerely,

Anjuli Grantham
Advocacy Chair,
Board of Directors