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Subject: Letter in Support of HB 167

To Whom it may concern,

Alaska Air Transit [AAT] is a Part 135 on-demand air charter operator, based on Merrill Field in Anchorage. AAT operates five IFR aircraft, including three turboprops, in statewide service ranging from the Aleutians to the North Slope to southeast Alaska.

AAT supports HB 167, which provides relief from the requirement to carry provisions to survive for extended periods in the field. These requirements were put into law before the advent of modern flight locating technologies and highly capable search and rescue resources.

Many modern commercial aircraft are equipped with satellite based 406 ELT's and real-time satellite flight tracking, and are mandated to perform flight following. Highly trained search and rescue resources are now equipped with technology such as night vision goggles and infrared search cameras.

These elements combine to greatly increase the probability of a downed aircraft being quickly located, and therefore reduce the probability of a long term survival scenario requiring carriage of extensive on board survival provisions.

For the past several years, all AAT aircraft have been equipped with satellite based 406 ELT's and real-time satellite flight tracking. Company flight followers know at a glance where our aircraft are located. We feel that the requirement to carry the currently mandated packing list of survival gear is an outdated and unnecessary burden that does little to improve survivability for operators that are equipped with advanced satellite based locating and tracking technologies.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Owen

Owner/ operator