



505 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

www.akaction.org

April 13, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for House Bill 1, An Act Relating to Absentee Voting, Voting and Voter Registration; Relating to Early Voting Locations and Which Persons May Vote Absentee Ballots; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT), we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1, Electronic Registration and Voting. ACAT is a statewide environmental health and justice organization established in 1997. Our mission is to ensure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe that everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy.

ACAT is part of a cohort of organizations supported by the Groundswell Fund's Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) program. This funding gives us the opportunity to increase voter engagement in long-term, sustainable ways for historically underrepresented populations. Our work focuses especially on reaching people of color, young people, and women to encourage them to be involved in the political process. We do this by registering voters, using door and phone canvassing to educate people on policy issues, and reminding people to vote.

HB1 is a great step in making sure that voting is accessible for more people. Increasing access to online voter registration will make the process more accurate since voters will be entering their own information. Online registration also makes it easier for rural

Alaskans to register since it eliminates sending paperwork to offices at the Division of Elections.

Permanent absentee voting gives voters more time to research the issues and candidates since they will be able to vote by mail. As voters will not need to apply each year for this option it will be easier for people to remember to vote in the first place. Voting from home will also be beneficial to people who need assistance and additional time with language translation.

The bottom line is that our democracy works best when everyone is involved. As a state, Alaska should be doing everything it can to increase access to and participation in voting. The strength of our state lies in the vast diversity of people who live here. HB1 will amplify the voices of all Alaskans and make our voting process more equitable. We strongly urge the passage of HB1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela K. Miller".

Pamela Miller
Executive Director