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SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Anna MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator MacKinnon:

I am writing today to express Southeast Conference's support for SB157 / HB304 legislation to make the Alaska Microloan Revolving Loan fund more accessible to small businesses.

This loan fund has already had a positive impact in Southeast Alaska. It has helped small businesses who have had difficulty finding sources of capital and it allowed those businesses to create jobs. This type of self-replenishing economic development tool is what small business needs to help remove barriers to entrepreneurship. However, more flexibility in the program will provide better access, and passing this legislation will show the legislature's strong support for small business.

Southeast Conference is the State of Alaska's Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for southeast Alaska and the federally recognized Economic Development District for the region with a mission to help develop strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Thank you in advance for the Senate Finance Committee's support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Venables
Executive Director
Southeast Conference
www.seconference.org