

**From:** swmitchell@gci.net  
**To:** [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)  
**Cc:** [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 16  
**Date:** Monday, April 01, 2019 8:37:30 AM

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Dear Senator Micciche:

My name is Steve Mitchell, representing myself, although my interaction with AMCO/ABC has been as a result of my position as Vice President of the Fairbanks Drama Association and Fairbanks Children's Theatre, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) Arts and Education organization, and as volunteer bar manager of same.

It is my fervent hope that Senate Bill 16 can restore some common sense and equitable treatment by AMCO/ABC, whose actions over the past several years have cost our organization thousands of dollars and have led to the closure of our audience amenity bar service at the present time. I would venture to guess that our theatre has paid more in catering permit fees over the last 50 years than any other entity in the state. We always operated responsibly, paid our liquor taxes diligently, and complied with ABC statutes and regulations as we were instructed. Two months ago, two armed enforcement investigators arrived at our theatre and effectively shut down our bar, two days before the opening of our production of "The Crucible". We are awaiting the disposition of our application for a Theatre License for our licensee, but were advised to not even attempt obtaining catering permits for our present production of "Nunsense" because, unbeknown to us, those investigators said we had been illegally using such permits for those past 50 years, even though our activities were approved and well understood by previous ABC personnel.

I will spare you the details of our nightmare experience at this time, but would be happy to share them if you are interested. Suffice it to say, it is a sad day when citizens are afraid to communicate with a regulatory agency for fear of more arbitrary and abrupt re-interpretation of statutes and regulations. These statutes were not written by Zeus on Mt. Olympus. Reasonable people attempted to establish mechanisms so organizations such as FDA/FCT could conduct modest fundraising efforts through lawful operations.

AMCO/ABC obviously requires more oversight at this time.

Sincerely,  
Steve Mitchell  
615 2nd St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-978-0166  
swmitchell@gci.net