

SENT VIA EMAIL: Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov

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February 6, 2020

Honorable Chris Tuck
Alaska Legislature

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RE: [HB197A](#)—*Extend Seismic Hazards Safety Commission*

Dear Representative Tuck:

State Farm Insurance strongly supports extension of the sunset date for the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission, as provided for in [HB197A](#). As the largest insurer of homes in the U.S. and Alaska, State Farm is keenly aware of the critical need for earthquake study, evaluation and loss mitigation, especially in Alaska. For that reason State Farm was a proponent of the formation of the Commission in 2002; and since then has had the honor of a State Farm associate sitting on the Commission as the insurance industry representative.

We concur with the Sponsor's Statement's recommendation that the Commission be extended at least through June, 2028:

The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission brings together key government officials and volunteer experts to provide recommendations on how to improve earthquake response and mitigation. The commission works closely with state agencies, local governments, and school districts to promote earthquake safety and to disseminate information on how to reduce Alaska's vulnerability to earthquakes. During its history, the eleven-member commission has played a significant role in helping the state withstand several significant earthquakes with minimal damage and no loss of life, including the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck Southcentral Alaska on November 30, 2018.

State Farm respectfully requests that [HB197A](#) pass so that the Commission's important work can continue. Please let me know if State Farm can offer any more information or support.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Nash, Counsel

cc: Sheldon Winters, Esq. (via email)