

HAP

ALASKA · YUKON

18 February 2020

Representative Matt Claman
Alaska State Legislature
Capital Building, Rm 420
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Matt Claman,

The Mt McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge extends its support for House Bill 148 (HB148) to ease the limitations on witnesses for destination weddings. The Mt McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge hosts tens of thousands of guests to Alaska each summer and has been honored to oversee several weddings.

House Bill 148 works to eliminate the need for multiple witnesses. As Alaska grows as a destination wedding location the current requirements are a definite roadblock. Imagine wanting to memorialize your wedding on one of Alaska's accessible glaciers or mountains. This can bring added business to flight operators and river guides. But if the ceremony requires payment for 2 additional people on the helicopter or boat just to serve as a witness, that cost is often enough to dissuade the couple from coming to Alaska at all for the wedding.

House Bill 148 is a commonsense measure to eliminate the need for an additional 2 witnesses. Its passage will assist in bringing more people to Alaska for weddings. In my business I see many people who return to Alaska after a great first trip. This measure will not just bring people to Alaska for the wedding. I am confident it will also bring them back again in the future, further helping Alaska's tourism industry.

Sincerely,



Rick Peterson
General Manager