

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Zack Fields and the Honorable Ivy Spohnholz, Co-chairs
Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Via email: House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Dear Representatives Fields and Spohnholz and members of the Committee,

This letter is in support of SB 24, which provides the opportunity for Alaskan corporations to hold virtual corporate meetings.

APEI is a Joint Insurance Arrangement, formed under AS 21.76, which allows public entities to pool together to share costs and procure insurance on a group basis. We are the non-profit administrator of a pool of about 71 school districts, municipalities, and related organizations located around Alaska. We are a registered non-profit corporation in Alaska, and most of our members and their employees would be affected in some way by this extension.

At least once per year, APEI holds a membership meeting, to which each of our member public entities is invited. It has long been a challenge to make it possible for enough of our members to attend these meetings to allow for meaningful discussions and votes. In 2020, due to the emergency order, APEI was able to hold our annual meeting virtually. We had a much higher attendance rate than we have historically, which allowed us to better communicate with our members and them with us. I would like us to continue to be able to meet with our members in this way.

I encourage you to pass SB 24, which will allow us to continue to provide us with the option of holding meetings such as this in a virtual, in-person, or hybrid manner, so that our public entity members around the state can easily participate.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara Thurston
Executive Director
Alaska Public Entity Insurance
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