



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

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January 19, 2022

VIA EMAIL sfin@akleg.gov

The Honorable Click Bishop
The Honorable Bert Stedman
The Honorable Lyman Hoffman
The Honorable Natasha von Imhof

The Honorable David Wilson
The Honorable Donald Olson
The Honorable Bill Wielechowski

Re: Amended Senate Bill 9

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports Senate Bill 9 as amended to allow for more local control over all alcohol licensing and we appreciate the Senate Judiciary Committee's support in voting for that amendment. Senate Bill 9, as amended, now allows local municipalities to petition for additional licenses within their jurisdictions to reflect local concerns, local conditions, and local preferences.

As Senate Bill 9 proceeds through the Senate Finance Committee, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough wishes to express its support for the current version of the bill and re-emphasize that under this bill, State regulations would remain while allowing for local municipalities to determine whether additional licenses are warranted. Co-regulation by the State and municipalities works as a method to allow for businesses with alcohol while making sure that the State and municipal regulations are followed.

In our Borough, there are many restaurants in operation with readily recognizable names such as Red Robin, Evangelos, Chepos, Everett's, Hacienda, Denali Brewpub, Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, Settler's Bay, and Locals. While these establishments are restaurants in nature, they all operate with a beverage dispensary license. Since there are currently no beverage dispensary licenses available in the entire Matanuska-Susitna Borough and its cities, other restaurants who wish to have the same business model are foreclosed from being successful in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The current version of Senate Bill 9 would allow the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly a say in whether other operations such as Olive Garden, Cattle Company, Sullivan's, Outback Steakhouse, or Applebees could be allowed a dispensary license to be able to operate and be successful in our community.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.

Likewise, there are no package store licenses available in the entire Matanuska-Susitna Borough and its cities. Under the amended version of Senate Bill 9, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly could petition the board for additional package store licenses for businesses like Costco or additional locations for Fred Meyer, Carrs, or WalMart. More disbursed economic development across our very large Borough will avoid the long distance drives many of us make to be able to shop at these stores. This saves time, money, alleviates wear and tear on our roads, and relieves traffic congestion.

Various types of alcohol licenses are part of the business model for many successful, responsible, and well respected businesses. Under the current amended version of Senate Bill 9, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is able to petition for additional licenses dependent upon our local conditions and considering our local concerns to advance economic development. We support Senate Bill 9 in its current form and ask for your support as well.

Sincerely,



Edna DeVries
Mayor



Michael Brown
Borough Manager

cc: Borough Assembly
City of Wasilla
City of Palmer
City of Houston
Mr. John Harris