



March 8, 2023

Submitted electronically via email

RE: Letter of Support for Universal Temporary Licensure – Senate Bill 83 & House Bill 85

Dear Members of the Senate and House Labor & Commerce Committees,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce is the premier business advocacy organization in the Interior of Alaska, representing over 650 businesses, organizations, and thousands of employees. Worker shortages across all sectors continue to be one of the top concerns of Fairbanks area businesses. We appreciate the administration's and legislature's efforts to help develop meaningful solutions to attracting and retaining talent, supporting the reciprocity of professional licenses for employees moving to Alaska who bring valuable skills to the economy, and addressing the barriers to obtaining occupational licenses.

The Fairbanks Chamber supports Senate Bill 83 and House Bill 85, Universal Temporary Licensure legislation. These bills will help streamline the licensing process for the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and allow newcomers with an out-of-state qualified professional license in good standing to begin working right away. We hope this legislation will make the process shorter and smoother for professionals seeking to obtain an Alaska license.

According to the Alaska Department of Labor, state economists predict Alaska will add 5,300 jobs in 2023. However, even as the state's economy recovers, the ongoing challenge of filling open positions remains. Universal temporary licensure is a concept many states are adopting. We must continue demonstrating that Alaska is open for business and our state is a great place to live and work.

The Fairbanks Chamber is committed to supporting and encouraging policies and initiatives that remove barriers and facilitate efforts to increase

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TDL Staffing
TOTE Maritime Alaska
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Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge
Wal-Mart

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FNSB Riverside Division
Full Tilt Mechanical & Construction
Golden Valley Electric Association
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MAC Federal Credit Union
McDonald's of Fairbanks
Northrim Bank
Robinson & Ward PC
Sourdough Fuel
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union
Stewart Title Company – Yukon Division
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Vivamore Companies

employment across all sectors. Therefore, we encourage and support the timely passage of SB 83 and HB 85 in this legislative session.

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jeremy Johnson
President and CEO



Patrick Cotter
Board Chair

Cc: Governor Mike Dunleavy, State of Alaska
Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate
Senator Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senate
Congresswoman Mary Peltola, U.S. House of Representatives
Julie Sande, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Community, Commerce & Economic Development
Sylvan Robb, Director of Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing
Kati Capozzi, President, Alaska Chamber
Jomo Stewart, President, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
Members of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce