

April 24, 2023

Support For Establishment of an Alaska Military Affairs Commission

Dear Legislators,

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation is pleased to offer its support for legislation establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission, and relating to its compliments, powers & duties.

As you are aware, the Military is a substantial and vital component of the Interior and Statewide economies – accounting for roughly a third of the former and 10% of the latter. It is for this reason Fairbanks Economic Development has been honored to serve on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor’s military-focused Tiger Team and has long supported Gubernatorial military advisory organizations like Governor Parnell’s AMFAST and Governor Walker & Dunleavy’s ACASTs.

Unfortunately, as the FNSB Tiger Team has proven as “permanent” as the military’s importance in our community and State (serving as a consistent source of input and counsel to successive FNSB Mayors), Gubernatorial-level advisory groups have ebbed and flowed with each change of Administration – folding at the close of an outgoing Administration, then needing to be re-established and constituted during the subsequent one.

Recognizing the great importance of the Military to the State and its communities, and that a great many other jurisdictions benefit from (and out-perform Alaska by) maintaining well-resourced, permanent structures staffed with personnel specializing in seeking out ways to maximize their civilian/military relationships and opportunities, FEDC has long recommended that state-level policy-makers move away from its historic on-again-off-again model (AMFAST/ACAST) and create a more stable commission for Alaska.

Therefore, FEDC supports the establishment of an appropriately constituted, empowered, staffed and state-funded Alaska Military Affairs Commission to advise the Legislature & State of Alaska on military matters and pursue defense-related opportunities, and encourages rapid passage of legislation to do so.

Sincerely,



Jomo Stewart
President & CEO