



April 2, 2024

**RE: Support for SB 183, which makes the Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund no longer subject to the sweep**

Dear members of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alaska Legislature,

The Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund is an important tool keeping Alaska's workforce strong by underwriting risk associated with workplace injuries when an employer has failed to comply with the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act. The fund is ineffective and does not achieve the stated goal when it has a zero balance, which is why we write to voice our strong support for Senate Bill 183. Please remove the Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund from the constitutional sweep. We are the premier business member organization in Alaska's Interior, and we support efforts to develop, attract and retain workers to meet the economic and social needs of Alaska.

It is hard to imagine that the voters had funds such as the Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund—a resource for workers at their most vulnerable time—in mind when they approved a constitutional amendment aimed at sweeping state funds into the Constitutional Budget Reserve at the end of each fiscal year. The constitutional sweep is an instrument of good fiscal management but deploying it in relation to the Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund is tantamount to closing the fund annually for months and thereby leaving workers unprotected until the fund is replenished through civil penalties. We believe this is an unintended consequence of the constitutional sweep. Senate Bill 183 offers a solution by establishing the Workers' Compensation Benefits Guarantee Fund as a separate fund from the general fund.

Alaska has a pressing need to attract more workers. Maintaining programs aimed at protecting our workforce enhances the state's appeal as a great place to live, work and visit. Please show Alaska's workforce that they are valued and join us in supporting Senate Bill 183 to make sure resources are available to injured workers without delay.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Johnson  
President & CEO

Kelly Ward  
Board Chair

**EXECUTIVE PARTNERS**

**DIAMOND**

- Costco Wholesale
- Denali State Bank
- GCI
- Mt. McKinley Bank

**PLATINUM**

- ConocoPhillips Alaska
- Doyon, Limited
- Foundation Health Partners
- Golden Heart Utilities
- Harvest Midstream
- Weidner Apartment Homes

**GOLD**

- Alaska Airlines
- Contango Ore Inc.
- Design Alaska
- Doyon Utilities LLC
- First National Bank Alaska
- Holland America Group / Princess Cruise
- Kinross Fort Knox
- Matson
- Northern Star Resources Limited
- TDL Staffing Inc.
- TOTE Maritime Alaska
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Usibelli Coal Mine
- Wal-Mart

**SILVER**

- Ahna Incorporated
- Alaska Railroad
- AT&T
- Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK
- Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix
- FNSB Riverside Division
- Full Tilt Mechanical & Construction
- Gene's Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM
- GHEMM Company, LLC.
- Global Credit Union
- Golden Valley Electric Association
- Interior Gas Utility
- JL Properties, Inc.
- LifeMed Alaska
- Lynden
- MAC Federal Credit Union
- McDonald's of Fairbanks
- Northrim Bank
- Robinson & Ward PC
- Santos, Ltd.
- Sourdough Fuel/Petro Star
- Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union
- Stewart Title Company – Yukon Division
- Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
- Vivlamore Companies

1.30.2024