



April 14, 2017

Interior Delegation
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Interior Delegation,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce currently represents over 750 businesses throughout Interior Alaska. The success of our members is directly linked to their ability to do business in an environment that has the necessary infrastructure to support and promote economic development. Our work on behalf of the business community is primarily supported by the volunteers that serve on the Chamber's public policy and advocacy committees.

As we've consistently communicated throughout this session, our Chamber supports the priority of a sound fiscal plan for the State of Alaska that provides our economy a soft landing from this decrease in revenues rather than an approach that does too much too fast and sends the economy into a tailspin. In addition to the soft landing approach, we do not expect a 100% solution to the fiscal crisis this session.

It is critical to point out that this is not the time for tax increases to include a personal income tax. Fortunately, a plan has been put forward that resolves our budget deficit without requiring Alaskans to pay new taxes. A reasonable use of the Permanent Fund Earnings solves the majority of this fiscal gap. After that, we have the savings to get us through a number of years giving our economy time to rebound. Our current situation is less of a crisis, but rather more a situation that requires discipline and effort. Increasing the tax burden on Alaskans during an economic recession will create potentially detrimental effect to our economy.

Now is not the time to implement an income tax!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Marisa Sharrah
President & CEO
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry Hutchison". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being more prominent.

Garry Hutchison
Board Chair
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon