



February 21, 2020

Submitted via email

Subject: Support Expedited Military Spouse Licensing

Dear Co-Chair von Imhof, Co-Chair Stedman and Members of the Finance Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce strives to connect qualified potential members of the workforce to employers who want and need their skills. We also try to improve opportunities for military dependents to find employment and education opportunities in our community. The frequent relocation inherent to military life means that spouses have limited time to work in each location. However, they bring training and skills which may greatly contribute to our economy. We support efforts to help our member organizations tap into this skilled talent pool by maximizing their productive time in the Alaska workforce.

We support the work of the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Alaska Coalition for Veteran's and Military Families, to make improvements in the process for military personnel and military spouses to apply for professional licenses in an expedited manner. Alaska has been a leader in this area, with legislation dating back to 2011.

However, to date, this legislation has resulted in very low participation from military spouses. In 2017, fewer than 30 expedited temporary licensing applications were received from military spouses. By strengthening the temporary license process and reporting requirements, we believe that SB11, as currently written, will benefit both military dependents and businesses in Alaska.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

DIAMOND

Alaska Airlines
Denali State Bank
Foundation Health Partners Fairbanks
Memorial Hospital, TVC Orthopedics & Sportsmedicine
Lockheed Martin
Mt. McKinley Bank
Vivlamore Companies

PLATINUM

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. ConocoPhillips
Doyon, Limited
Fred Meyer Stores
GCI
Golden Heart Utilities
Kinross Fort Knox Mine
MAC Federal Credit Union

GOLD

Alaska Executive Search
BP Exploration
Carlson Center
Design Alaska
Doyon Utilities LLC
ExxonMobil
First National Bank Alaska
Matson Alaska
Northern Star Pogo LLC
Ravn Alaska
TOTE Maritime Alaska
Usibelli Coal Mine
WAL-MART Stores, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank Alaska
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &
Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge

SILVER

Ahtna Incorporated
Alaska USA
Alaska Railroad
AT&T
Everts Air Cargo, Everts Air AK
Exclusive Paving/University Redi-Mix
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks Natural Gas
Flowline Alaska
Gene's Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge
Go Alaska Media, LLC
Golden Valley Electric Association
Hale & Associates, Inc.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC
HUB International
JL Properties, Inc.
Key Bank
LifeMed Alaska
Lynden
McDonald's of Fairbanks
Northrim Bank
Personnel Plus
Seekins Ford Lincoln
Sourdough Fuel
Spirit of Alaska Federal Credit Union
TDL Staffing
Tower Hill Mines-Livengood Gold Project
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Verizon Wireless
Yukon Title Company



Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Please let us know if we can provide any information to support your efforts on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina Binkley".

Sabrina Binkley
Board Chair