



January 29, 2018

Senator Mia Costello
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee, Chair
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of SB 112 – Comprehensive Workers' Compensation Reform

Dear Senator Costello:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) supports the current version of Senate Bill 112, legislation that would make comprehensive changes to Alaska's current workers' compensation system.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large businesses representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans. Comprehensive workers' compensation reform has been a long-standing priority of the Alaska Chamber and we offer our sincere gratitude to Senator Giessel for her willingness in taking up this endeavor and introducing Senate Bill 112.

The measures in Senate Bill 112 are not just meant to benefit employers. It can be said that this bill brings the focus back to the injured worker. This will be accomplished through its provisions that will implement best practices for medical treatment, protect injured workers exposure to highly addictive opioids, and shift the system away from costly, prolonged disputes and litigation by capping attorney fees and advocating for the use of administrative law judges to adjudicate cases.

The Alaska Chamber urges your support for Senate Bill 112 and its passage from your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer'.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO

Cc:

Senator Kevin Meyer
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Berta Gardner