the short term, we have some serious obsta-
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cents economic slump, we’ve
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air.
have had years where the sunflowers are in full
Fairbanks in autumn is not to be missed. W e
Heart City, and believe me when I say that
I've attended four Fall Forums in Fairbanks
opportunities. I'm grateful for those
places unique — that are once-in-a-lifetime,
with the people and businesses that make those
opportunities.
A little more on gratitude in just a bit.
In all my years with the Chamber, I believe
I've visited four Fall Forums in Fairbanks
and this will be my fifth Forum in the Golden
Heart City, and believe me when I say that
Fairbanks is in autumn is not to be missed. We
have had years where the sunflowers are in full
bloom and other years where there is a definite chill in the air.
I love my home in Southeast Alaska, but Fairbanks might
just be the most beautiful fall destination in the state.
The last time the Chamber held its annual Forum event
in Fairbanks was in 2015. Alaska Airlines CEO Brad Tilden
delivered a fantastic keynote address. He shared surpris-
ingly personal stories of how every Alaska Airlines employee
directly contributes to successful travel that most of us prob-
tably take for granted.
Tilden's approach reminded me of how Toyota's
Taichi Ohno revolutionized manufacturing by
empowering every employee on the assembly line
to control production to immediately eliminate
tasks. Tilden's focus on individual autonomy
and responsibility is just one of the many pearls of
wisdom I've brought home with me from forums.
Again, something I'm grateful for.
The other thing I've found true about groups of
business professionals is that we're quick to rec-
ognize great work when we see it. In fact, we set
aside an evening at the Forum to do exactly that.
The annual Top Business Awards Gala recog-
nizes Alaska's most influential and ethical compa-
nies. In addition to acknowledging exemplary service from a
high functioning, regional chamber of commerce, we also
deliver the William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year
award for lifetime achievement.
It's often the moving stories of a lifetime of service to
Alaska and our business community that sticks with me after
the gala.
In 2015 at the Fairbanks awards gala, the small business
award winner was Date-Line Digital Printing. Date-Line is
a Fairbanks business and the area attendees went nuts to see
one of their own claim Alaska's most coveted business
award.
But this small print shop didn't stand out from other Alas-
ka businesses because the provide fantastic print services
— which I'm sure that Geoff Welch and his team strive to
do. Instead, Date-Line earned recognition for changing the
way Fairbanks thinks. Years earlier and with no thought of
recognition or award, Welch made a personal commitment to
be more grateful in his life.
I haven't been in the Date-Line shop, but I hope to stop
by this fall when we return to Fairbanks for another fantastic Forum. This small, local company has brightened an entire

From the President: Initiative will further weaken economy

By Curtis W. Thayer
Alaska Chamber President & CEO

The Alaska Chamber has long been an
outspoken voice for pro-business policies
that grow our economy and create econom-
ic opportunities for Alaskans. For several
years, especially during the re-
cent economic slump, we've
advocated for a state fiscal plan
that limits government spend-
ing and supports private sector
growth.
Our annual public opinion
survey found that 60 percent of Alaskans rate the state's
economy as poor. It's a shocking number, and an indicator of how
pessimistic Alaskans are about
their ability to work and make a living here.

Alaska already has the unwanted distinc-
tion of having the highest unemployment
tate in the country. Getting our economy and
our state back on track requires some hard
decisions and a vision for the future, but, in
the short term, we have some serious obsta-
cles right before us.
The Stand for Salmon ballot measure, a
misguided attempt to improve salmon habi-
tat protections, will be on the General Elec-
tion ballot. On November 6, Alaskans will
decide on this issue that Chamber members
believe to be among the most serious threats
to our state economy in years.
It only takes one read of the
eight-page document to con-
vince most Alaskans that this
ballot measure is both un-Alas-
kan and unsound. Legal experts
have analyzed the ballot mea-
sure's language and are shocked by its breadth, complexity,
and vague undefined terms, and its
unstated presumptions.
Alaska is already home to a
world-class shipping system that allows
responsible development and successful fish
habitat management to co-exist. This
ballot measure is a radical overhaul of a system
that works, and it provides no additional
benefit to the environment.
But that isn't surprising since neither
Alaska businesses nor leaders were consult-
ed in the drafting of the measure.
Outside money and outside influence led
to the creation of this measure and the result
is a dumpster fire. It is unwise, unpredict-
able, and dangerous.
The fish habitat mea-
sure ensures that our economy will continue
to shrink, the jobs lessness will grow, and our
state will continue to see an out migration of
people.
Outside environmental groups and their
wealthy outside benefactors are not the
people who should be weighing in on poli-
cies in Alaska. These are people with a long-
standing agenda, and they don't care if they
salvage economic growth and jobs in their
misguided mission to enforce extreme fish
habitat regulations to the exclusion of every-
things else.
These activists, whose single largest do-
nor is a Boston billionaire, don't live here, so
why would they care if our current economic recession deepens? They would rather turn
Alaska into one giant, inaccessible national
park.
When the leader of an Alaska Native
corporation warns the public, "there will not
be another significant project built in rural
Alaska if this ballot measure passes," that's
a serious matter.
When the construction industry says that
building or improving roads, bridges, and
runways will become exorbitantly expensive
or impossible if this measure passes, that
should provoke a sustained outcry.
When the president of the proposed Alas-
ka LNG project says that passage of this bal-
lot measure would make the gas line project
darn near impossible" to build, that should
convince us to take action now.
And, when three out of the four candi-
dates running for governor, including our
current governor, state their opposition to this
measure, that must motivate us to band
together to ensure its defeat on November 6.
Alaskan voters are learning more about this
issue and once they do I believe they will
firmly reject it.
You can learn more about this misguided
ballot measure at standforkak.com.
Curtis W. Thayer is lifelong Alaskan and
serves as president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber.

Our VISION & MISSION
To be the leading voice advancing Alaska Business.
To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.
Alaskans for Dunleavy
Born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mike Dunleavy first came to Alaska in 1983. He is a former Republican member of the Alaska State Senate, representing District D from 2013 to 2015 and District E from 2015 to 2017. Today he is running for governor of Alaska.
Visit him online at dunleavyforalaska.com.

Arctic Solar Ventures
Located in Anchorage, Alaska, Arctic Solar Ventures is a fully designed and build solar company. They serve residential, commercial, and utility markets with grid-direct solar photo voltaic and solar thermal systems. Visit them online at arcticsolarentures.com.

APBA/Plastics Industry Association
Founded in 2005, the American Progressive Bag Alliance (APBA) /Plastics Industry Association represents a thriving and resourceful industry employing more than 24,000 American workers in more than 40 states. Visit them online at plasticsindustry.org/apba.

Beacon OHSS
A turn-key solution for medical, safety, and training needs. Beacon specializes in providing comprehensive professional services to organizations requiring assistance with development, implementation, and maintenance of required health, safety, and environmental programs. Visit them online at beaconohss.com.

Carmody Insurance Agency Inc.
Carmody Insurance Agency Inc, is a State Farm Insurance Agency. They focus on Auto Insurance, Home Insurance, Business Insurance, Health Insurance, and Life insurance in Anchorage, Eagle River, the Mat-Su Valley, and the Turnagain Arm. Their customer-centered values and ethics are the foundation for our standard of service. Visit them online at carmdoy.com.

Save the Date
2018 Fall Forum
October 23-25
Fairbanks

2019 Legislative Fly-In
January 30-31, 2019
Juneau
Mark your calendars and check our website for more information at alaskachamber.com.

Chair: Continued from Page 1

community and today their walls are plastered with hundreds of thankful cards. Welch calls it the Fortress of Gratitude, and I think it’s a fine example of how our Alaska businesses can lift the communities we live in while providing the incomes and services that we need.

The last thing I’m grateful to see at this year’s Forum is the introduction of Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year award. The new Rita Sholton Large Business award allows us to acknowledge the large businesses and large businesses alike. The Alaska Chamber is a separate entity and not a parent organization for local chambers. A unique membership is provided for Alaskans for Dunleavy.

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Q. I’m a small business... why should I join the Alaska Chamber?
A. Alaska is a state driven by small and large businesses alike. The Alaska Chamber tackles many important issues that impact small businesses like Workers’ Compensation reform, business tax, and regulation relief.

Q. Is there a tangible return on investment for an Alaska Chamber membership?
A. Most definitely! Our events bring together top business leaders and elected officials providing members exclusive networking opportunities. We deliver informational e-blasts, legislative updates, and newsletters to keep you up to speed on business issues impacting Alaska. We provide an online business directory service as well as our printed Membership Directory.

Q. I am a member of my local chamber. Does that automatically make me a member of the Alaska Chamber?
A. The Alaska Chamber is a separate entity and not a parent organization for local chambers. A unique membership is required.

Q. What is the difference between the Alaska Chamber and my local chamber?
A. The Alaska Chamber is the largest broad-based statewide business advocacy organization. We focus on major public policy initiatives that affect all organizations in Alaska. Our advocacy efforts mostly impact statewide issues but we also advocate for common sense federal laws and regulations. Meanwhile, local chambers are focused primarily on networking events and promoting business opportunities in their local communities.

Q. Is the Alaska Chamber membership investment tax deductible?
A. Yes, membership dues are 95 percent tax deductible as a business expense.
FALL FORUM

October 23-25
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center

Join us in The Golden Heart City for Alaska’s premier business symposium and celebrate 65 years of pro-business advocacy and grassroots economic development in this last great frontier!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

8 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:15 a.m. Alaska’s Recession: How We Compare Mouhcine Guettabi, Associate Professor of Economics, UAA, ISER
9 a.m. Industry Panel: Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, and Tourism
10:15 a.m. Breakouts
11:30 a.m. Gubernatorial Forum Luncheon
1:30-4:30 p.m. Washington DC Update Congressman Don Young

Stand for Alaska and Alaska Native Corporation Outlook Aaron Schutt, President and CEO, Doyon, Limited

Oil Search’s Exploration on the North Slope Keiran Wulff, Executive General Manager and President, Oil Search Alaska

6 p.m. Pre-Awards Gala Reception at the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum
7 p.m. Top Business Awards Gala & Live Auction

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

8 a.m. Registration Desk Open
8:30 a.m. Policy Forum
Noon Keynote Luncheon — ConocoPhillips: A Strong Future in Alaska Joe Marushack, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska
1 p.m. Policy Forum Continues (If needed)
3 p.m. Fall Forum Concludes
3 p.m. Board Ratification Meeting

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Business to Business is a quarterly publication of the Alaska Chamber produced by the Alaska Journal of Commerce
The grades are in

Since 2010, the Alaska Business Report Card (ABRC) has shared its policy priorities and legislative expectations at the beginning of each Legislature so state lawmakers know what to expect when they are graded at the end of the two-year Legislature.

ABOUT THE ABRC
Made up of the Alaska Chamber, Alaska Wins, and the Resource Development Council for Alaska, the ABRC has implemented new and improved online tools to show every detail of how a state lawmaker is graded. The revamped ABRC website displays individual grades, how the ABRC scored lawmakers and their scores on each piece of legislation, as well as past ABRC grades.

HOW WE SCORE
As for methodology, the ABRC identifies legislation that is either beneficial or harmful to the Alaska private sector and provides several ratings to reward or penalize action at various stages. The first rating (on a scale of -3 to +3) is based on the extent of benefit or harm the legislation could create. Then, for each piece of legislation, the ABRC assigns a score (either -2 or +2) to the sponsor or co-sponsor. A third rating (either -2 to +2) is added to reflect how a legislator voted on floor amendments. Last, a legislator receives a score (either -3 to +3) for how he or she voted on the final legislation.

Since scores ranged widely, from high negative numbers to high positive numbers, the ABRC assumed the highest score was the highest score possible and used it to calculate the remainder of the scores as percentages. We then developed a “curve” based on these numbers. Legislators “almost always” on the side of creating a stable economic climate for business, responsible budgeting, and private sector growth policies received an A. Legislators “usually” supporting those policies received a B. Those “sometimes” supporting received a C. Those “usually not” supporting received a D. Those “almost never” supporting received an F.

LEARN MORE
To learn more, visit the ABRC online at alaskabusinessreportcard.com.

New Alaska Chamber video promotes advocacy efforts, invites membership

To promote the Alaska Chamber’s advocacy work and invite membership we’ve released a digital video that highlights why the Chamber exists and how we stand up for Alaska’s business community. We hope that you will share this video with your friends, family, and colleagues. Alaska is a great place to do business, and we have so much to offer. In under a minute you’ll get a sense of how the Chamber is working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska.

To view, visit the Chamber’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/alaskachamber.
5

MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VALUED SPONSORS!

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NMLS# 640297

When Dr. Christopher Gay wanted to start his own practice, he looked for a local expert who would go the extra mile to learn about his business and understand his dreams. He found Melissa Reiser, a First National community banker who took time to understand his business and help him succeed.

We believe banking is more than a series of transactions. From business startups and home loans to lines-of-credit and online banking, talk to a First National community banker and discover how you can get the most out of life in the Last Frontier.

For us, banking has always been about people and helping Alaskans succeed. For the rest of Dr. Gay’s story, visit FNBAlaska.com

The Alaska Chamber would like to recognize the following Chamber investors celebrating milestone anniversaries this quarter. We appreciate their ongoing commitment to Alaska and their investment in the Chamber – together we are the voice of Alaska business!

50 YEARS
Alaska Oil and Gas Association
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
ExxonMobil

45 YEARS
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce

40 YEARS
Crowley Fuels Alaska
Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC

35 YEARS
Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce
David Green & Sons, Inc.

30 YEARS
Explore Fairbanks
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

5 YEARS
Alaska Native Health Board
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
Effective Health Design Enterprises
Fairweather, LLC
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Petrotechnical Resources Alaska
Public Education Health Trust
Spawn Ideas

1 YEAR
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
BMW of Anchorage/Mini of Anchorage
Confluence Strategies, Inc.
David Parish & Associates
DenaliTEK, Inc.
Gillespie & Associates
McKinley Capital Management, LLC
White’s Inc.

ONE BANK SHARED MY VISION
One bank believed in me.

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On behalf of the students, staff, and ABW board of directors, thank you for making 2018 an amazing year for business education in Alaska.

Entrepreneurship training in Alaska is made possible by major contributions from these Alaska companies.

Thank you to all of our amazingly generous sponsors. These companies are investing in Alaska’s future!

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