



April 9, 2019

Senators Bert Stedman and Natasha von Imhof
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Joint Resolution 6–CONST AM:APPROP. LIMIT; RESERVE FUND

Dear Co-chairs Stedman and von Imhof:

The Alaska Chamber supports Senate Joint Resolution 6 currently under consideration by the Senate Finance committee.

The 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 business representing more than 700 businesses, manufacturers, and local chambers from across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

Our diverse statewide membership voted to support a meaningful spending cap on operating budget expenditures, and the board affirmed that position as a top priority for 2019 and beyond. Without a limit on state operating budget growth, the business community will live in constant fear of being tapped to fill the gap via large tax increases. A functional spending cap as outlined in SJR 6 allows elected officials to make tough calls on spending and ensures budget growth does not exceed citizens' or businesses' ability to fund unsustainable spending. This bill represents a step in the right direction to a long-term sustainable budget.

We credit members of the legislature for recognizing that operating budgets must be sustainable in the long-term. Furthermore, we believe that until state leaders can prove to the Alaskan people that spending is controlled, and a mechanism exists to reasonably limit future spending, they will not accept any of the various revenue proposals being discussed by the legislature.

In summary, we strongly support SJR 6, and appreciate the opportunity to represent our membership's view on this important topic.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Fogle'.

Albert Fogle
Vice President



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