

February 4, 2019

Dear Anchorage Assembly Members:

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has been a prominent voice for business across Anchorage for over 100 years. We represent over 900 companies and their 50,000+ employees. Our mission is to advance a successful business climate by attending to the civic, economic, and cultural betterment of our community.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce is supportive of a tax incentive for the development of residential housing in downtown Anchorage as defined in Assembly Ordinance 2019-12. We are supportive of this ordinance as it can encourage residential and mixed use development in the downtown area. Previous studies, such as the 2012 Anchorage Housing Market Analysis, encourage new redevelopment strategies to address the housing shortage. The Anchorage Chamber is also supportive of such tax incentives being applied to RFA's identified in the Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan.

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce recognizes that new investment in downtown Anchorage is a priority and critical to attracting businesses and residents who want to be located downtown. As noted in the Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan, redevelopment and reinvestment incentives are key in encouraging residential and commercial mixed use development. We believe this tax incentive will encourage additional housing thus growing the residential population in downtown. With more residents living in the downtown area, we will see more businesses and more commerce activity and have a positive and safe environment.

The Anchorage Chamber is supportive of the approval of Assembly Ordinance 2019-12 creating residential development incentives for downtown Anchorage.

Best Regards,



Bruce Bustamante

President & CEO