



March 2, 2018

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, Chair  
House Rules Committee  
State Capitol, Room 216  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Letter of Opposition for House Bill 142 – Unemployment Compensation Benefits

Dear Representative LeDoux;

The Alaska Chamber would like to express its opposition to House Bill 142.

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 business representing hundreds of employers and local chamber across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

The Alaska Chamber is concerned that increasing the unemployment benefit, you are effectively increasing the tax on the Alaskan business community. As you probably already heard about in length, Alaska is currently in a recession that has stymied businesses in our state. Adding to this already harsh business climate would make it more difficult for businesses to continue to operate, let alone flourish. The Chamber is also concerned that House Bill 142 relegates any future increases to a formula rather to a policy decision that is made by the Legislature in a very transparent, public process. We believe this is not something you should put into the hands of bureaucrats and makes for poor public policy.

We ask that you please consider the negative impacts to Alaskan businesses House Bill 142 will have before voting on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curtis Thayer', is written over a white background.

Curtis Thayer  
President/CEO

Cc: Alaska House of Representatives