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February 07, 2005

Representative Kurt Olson, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Thomas, Co-Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 110
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Co-Chairmen and Members of the House

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supports your efforts to extend the termination date of the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) program. The State Chamber firmly believes in this cooperative regional economic development model. It has been a successful program having provided an arena where regions can work on issues of common interest.

We have first hand knowledge of the power of regional collaboration and cooperation on issues facing our state. ARDOR's are able to provide greater local expertise in service delivery and project implementation with more efficiency and with less administrative burden than state agencies. An example of this is the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conferences successful handling of the Steller Sea Lion mitigation funds that put almost 30 million dollars into the Southwest Alaska regional economy.

We support the passage of HB 119, which extends the sunset clause to 2013 on the ARDOR program. The Board of Directors urges you to support the continuation of the ARDOR program and the positive work that has come from the regional ARDOR'S. For your reference, I have attached the position statement regarding our support for the continuation of the ARDOR program.

Your careful attention and thoughtful consideration of this request for support is genuinely appreciated.

Yours in economic prosperity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Wayne A. Stevens
President

**Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
2005 Position
Reauthorization of the Alaska Regional Development Organizations
(ARDOR) Program**

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supports the reauthorization and funding of the Alaska Regional Development Organization Program to engage in economic development planning, strategizing and implementation through effective public and private sector collaboration on local, regional, and state levels.