

February 21, 2007

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Governor Gregoire,

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce wishes to bring to your attention our concerns about Washington State Senate Bill 5207. The passage of this bill will have significant negative impact on the economy of the State of Alaska. I am enclosing a copy of the resolution adopted by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on February 13, 2007.

The State of Washington and the State of Alaska have long enjoyed strong economic ties. The joint efforts of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce report, "Ties That Bind, The Enduring Economic Impact of Alaska on the Puget Sound Region", well define this long-term economic relationship.

In the reports conclusion, the authors write, "Puget Sound and Alaska are more than just healthy trading partners. Together they help one another excel in the good times and weather the bad times. Each fills significant economic needs of the other." The report continues by noting, "One thing is clear. As each region's economy grows and diversifies, their relationship gets stronger, to the benefit of both".

Enactment of Senate Bill 5207 would damage Alaska's economy and cripple many isolated communities in Alaska by raising the cost of living significantly. Alaska's unique dependence on ports in Washington State, must be given due consideration while debating the merits of SB5207.

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the Washington State Legislature to consider alternative revenue sources for resolving Washington's freight mobility issues. We genuinely appreciate your thoughtful consideration and careful attention to our concerns with SB 5207.

Yours in economic prosperity,

Wayne A. Stevens
President/CEO

cc: Governor Sarah Palin

Copies sent to:

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