



DATE: January 26, 2009

FROM: Jackie L. Johnson
The Fish Hut Charters and Lodging, LLC
1125 Angler Drive, Kenai, Alaska 99611

TO: Mike Chenault, Representative
Tom Wagoner, Senator

SUBJECT: Alaska Travel Industry

Good day from Kenai, Alaska. I wanted to thank you both for passing HB147; by doing this you have ensured the survival of Alaska's tourism and marketing program.

As summer is approaching, my reservations are down significantly (approximately 50%) since I started my business in 1997. Now more than ever we need money to market our beautiful state to encourage people to visit and spend money. Even though I am a small business, I see where the tourism money is spent and how tourism dollars play a key role in Alaska's economy and specifically in my community. My business employs only a couple of people every summer, but this year due to the decrease in reservations, I am not going to be able to afford to employ anyone and my advertising budget has dwindled to less than \$500.

We need the state to step up and assist us in our endeavor to market this area as a World Class destination. Alaska tourism is an investment for the state and one that is growing and will continue to contribute to our state budget and communities in the years to come.

Thank you,
Jackie L. Johnson
Owner