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July 2, 2014

Commissioner Pat Kemp
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
PO Box 112500, MS-2500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500
pat.kemp@alaska.gov

RE: Telecommuting

Dear Commissioner Kemp,

It has come to my attention that the state is questioning its policies that allow state employees to telecommute.

The Haines Borough recognizes the value of "location-neutral" workers to our local economy. The promotion of the location-neutral workforce in the Haines Borough is one of our objectives in our recently adopted Comprehensive Plan¹.

However, when we were writing the Plan, it never occurred to us that the state of Alaska might be one of those "business owners" that we would work to "attract and retain"!

¹ Goal 3: Achieve a strong, diversified local economy that provides employment and income for all citizens that desire to work while protecting the health of the environment and quality of life. Build on local assets and competitive advantages to create economic opportunity.

Objective 3A: Attract and retain Location-Neutral workers, income earners, and business owners to Haines (i.e. Kensington or Greens Creek workers, internet based jobs and businesses, artists and writers, retirees).

I would like to encourage you to consider policies that would allow those state employees telecommuting from Haines to retain their status as telecommuters. The benefit of even two salaried employees able to conduct activities of daily living, unrelated to a job, in our small town is huge. As long as job performance is not at risk, we hope that you will consider the advantages to rural Alaska when a state employee is able to live in rural communities and telecommute.

I look forward to a better understanding of the state's policy on telecommunication.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Scott".

Stephanie Scott
Mayor, Haines Borough

Cc: Members, Haines Borough Assembly
Dave Sosa, Manager, Haines Borough
Julie Cozzi, Clerk, Haines Borough