



Workers' Compensation Committee of Alaska

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December 3, 2014

Governor Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

Congratulations to you and Lt. Governor Mallott on your historic win! We wish you all the best as you tackle the very difficult issues facing Alaska. We are an Alaskan non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for and educate employers on workers' compensation issues.

As you stated, proper health care reform is needed. So, too, is workers' compensation reform. Workers' compensation costs are among the most important of the many factors that define Alaska's overall competitiveness. Alaska's workers' compensation rates are three times higher than North Dakota and double those in Texas, (both competing oil producing states) and fifth highest in the U.S.

Not surprisingly, businesses have left Alaska due, in large part, to the high cost of workers' compensation. Considering the State of Alaska's budget concerns, we think it's necessary to keep all the businesses we have and attract new business in addition to cutting costs. A major way to do this is by enacting significant, comprehensive workers' compensation reform. Frankly, comprehensive reform will benefit the State of Alaska directly because, as an employer, the State of Alaska also pays these exorbitant costs.

Alaska is not the only state that has faced this situation. Therefore, we hope you will support workers' compensation reform legislation, as has been done in other states like Oklahoma and Montana, during the coming legislature. Please feel free to have your staff contact our organization for input and assistance on workers' compensation issues.

Sincerely,

Chuck Brady
President