June 30, 2022

Alaska Chamber: Governor Dunleavy's budget reductions are a step in the right direction

Today, Alaska Chamber leadership welcomes Governor Dunleavy's efforts to reduce the size of the State's budget to a more manageable level, and to place more money into savings. In the final days of the regular legislative session, Chamber leadership <u>expressed concern</u> the proposed budget would exceed reasonable spending levels. The final budget signed by the governor includes reductions that are fiscally responsible from a sustainability perspective.

"While we don't take positions on what was funded and what was removed from the budget, we have long said the State spends more than it can sustain in the long-term without negatively impacting the business community," said Kati Capozzi, Alaska Chamber president and CEO. "We appreciate Governor Dunleavy recognizing this and making the decision to remove some items, even in the face of tradeoffs and tough choices."

The Alaska Chamber renews its call for passage of a meaningful state spending cap, a position the organization has promoted as one of its biggest legislative priorities for nearly a decade. With a meaningful spending cap in place, lawmakers would be held to a spending ceiling that could not exceed a set limit every year, forcing budget prioritization and preventing spending sprees during periods of high oil prices and excess revenues. A spending cap will provide certainty and clarity to the business community and all Alaskans.