



Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Governor Mike Dunleavy
550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
Delivered electronically

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

I greatly appreciate our phone conversation this afternoon and your desire to obtain input from the hospitality industry in order to make fully-informed decisions toward preserving the public and socioeconomic health of Alaska and Alaskans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board of directors for the Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant, and Retailers Association (CHARR) had a robust discussion today about COVID-19 impacts to the hospitality industry, the increasing number of cases in Alaska, and potential next steps for the industry. The board reviewed data from this week's statewide industry survey, which revealed that 83% of respondents would support mandates – rather than recommendations – that add safety measures to prevent another industry shutdown and further transmission of the virus, including:

- 82% support requiring hospitality businesses to **post clear signage** at entry points that reminds customers about current requirements in mandates, to physically distance 6 feet apart when possible, and that individuals who are symptomatic should not enter the premises
- 63% support requiring hospitality businesses to keep a visitor log (first name, phone number) to **facilitate contact tracing** if/when necessary
- 63% support **requiring hospitality employees to wear cloth face coverings**

Alaska CHARR has strongly encouraged businesses to voluntarily implement the above and other preventative measures like **requiring hand sanitation upon entry** to a hospitality establishment. However, we have received many comments from business owners and employees, like this one in industry survey:

Recommendations without mandates is setting up businesses to fail, trying to balance safety and customer preferences.

Alaska CHARR – a nonprofit association with over 800 members statewide and functioning as the representative of Alaska's hospitality industry as a whole – respectfully requests that you include the items listed above (in bold) as requirements in a new state health mandate. We know that a second industry shutdown would be devastating to our industry, which has already suffered in ways that were once unimaginable. We both believe in Alaska's ability to protect the public while enabling all industries to remain open for business. Taking this immediate action would make that possible.

Thank you for your hard work and for sharing our interest in protecting the health of both the public and our economy.

Respectfully,

Sarah D. Oates
President & CEO