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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
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Bret Kolb Named as State's New Director of Insurance

(Juneau, AK) – The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development has selected Alaskan Bret Kolb as the new Director of the Division of Insurance, effective May 29, 2012. Kolb replaces Linda Hall, who is retiring after leading the division for the past nine years.

"Bret stood out in a strong field of applicants due to his extensive private sector experience and management skills," said Commissioner Susan Bell. "I am confident he will quickly engage employees, the insurance industry, and the public."

Kolb began his career in the insurance industry in 1993 as a health claims examiner and worked his way up to vice president managing multiple insurance divisions. He has worked in and managed multiple insurance lines, including group health, individual major medical, ERISA, life, disability, and reinsurance. Mr. Kolb lives in Wasilla with his family and will be based in Anchorage.

The 51-person Division of Insurance is one of six core divisions within the State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. In addition, the department houses six corporate agencies and carries the mission to promote a healthy economy, strong communities, and protect consumers.

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