



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SF 1 A Committee name

Committee on SB 160 Bill/Subject dated 3/22/12

Sen Finance Committee SB 160

Hello! Chuck Kaucic, testifying on behalf of the Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District in support of the AK Assn of Conservation Districts (AACD) \$1.5 M budget request.

I will describe the Wasilla District to give you a perspective of the variety of services Conservation Districts offer. The Wasilla District serves the largest area within the Mat-Su Borough & includes the fastest growing community in the State. We partner with "Cooperators" (folks who have agreements with us), residents, students, tribal councils, seniors, veterans & volunteers via various projects & Programs such as:

Agriculture

- 1) Farm Conservation plans & services;
- 2) Soil, hay, & forage crop sampling for farms - large & small.

Natural Resources

- 1) Stream bank & Salmon habitat restoration partnerships with: USFWS, NRCS, NOAA, ADF&G, & TNC (The Nature Conservancy). State funding provides needed match money;
- 2) Water Quality Monitoring - in lakes, streams; as well as
- 3) Watershed Health - thru stream gauge projects

Education

- 1) Public Outreach - educating people about soil & water topics;
- 2) Coordinate an annual Speech & Poster Contest for school students; & host
- 3) Classroom visits (indoors/outdoors) - working with public, private, & home school students, teachers & parents.

Natural resources are vital to our local economy & health

- * Clean water;
- * Minimizing run off;
- * Mitigating ATV/ORV (off road vehicle) use & damage; &
- * Restoring salmon habitat & fisheries

ALL are challenging responsibilities ... WE accept!

It is estimated that Conservation Districts return from \$6-\$9/\$1 invested. We are: local, cost-effective, resourceful, & solution-oriented. I respectfully request that you invest in us so we can in turn serve our neighbors. Thanks for considering the AACD's \$1.5 M request.

distmgr@wasillaswcd.org



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFLN Committee name
Committee on SB160, dated 3/22/12
Bill/Subject

Dear Sirs:

I am offering written testimony for SB 160. I was not able to attend the public hearing on this last night. My name is Berkley Tilton. I have been an active citizen of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for over 40 years. In that time I have personally financed and built over 125 miles of roads within the Borough. I sat on the Borough Transportation Planning Committee for Long Range Planning. Currently I am the Board President of the Knik-Fairview Community Council.

In the current budget there is funding to match a portion of the Road Bond issue passed last October. Thank you for that. Because of that, I would like to urge you to consider totally funding the match for the Borough in the amount of about an additional \$12 million.

Thank you,

B. H. Tilton
(907) 376-2697

ccil@wwdb.org



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN Committee name
Committee on SB 160 Bill/Subject, dated 3/22/12

Good Morning Senators

I am submitting the following written testimony on SB 160. I attended last evening's public hearing but due to the large numbers of Alaskans testifying was not able to testify. I do appreciate the work that the Senate Finance Committee accomplishes and the efforts you make to secure public input. Here is my testimony:

I am Murph O'Brien a long time resident of the Mat-Su Borough. I have been involved in Alaskan transportation projects throughout my 35 year professional career first as an employee of the Alaska Department of Transportation, then with the Mat-Su Borough and currently as a private consultant.

I support the many infrastructure projects contained within SB 160 especially those projects that improve the transportation infrastructure within the Mat-Su. I was an active member of the Road Bond Yes group that help secure the passage of the most recent Mat Su Borough Road Bond Issue. Mat-Su voters overwhelming passed this Road Bond Package during last October's municipal election. This \$64.0 million Bond package is to be shared 50/50 between the Borough and the State. This Bond Package funds 13 important road and pathway projects that both complement and supplement the existing transportation system in the borough. Improving these arterials will provide transportation options to residents who are currently funneled on to the congested Parks and Glenn Highways.

I strongly support and am grateful for the existing \$20.0 million of state match currently contained in SB 160 on page 5 lines 17 and 18. I urge you to consider adding the additional \$12.0 million to fully fund the State's match as it would allow the Borough to move forward in an effective and efficient manner to implement this important road program. These 13 projects will improve connectivity, traffic flow and most importantly safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

M. Murph O'Brien
P.O. Box 995
Palmer, Alaska 99645
907-355-6355



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN
Committee name
Committee on SB 160, dated 3/22/12
Bill/Subject

Good Morning Senators

I am submitting the following written testimony on SB 160 to add to last evening's public hearing.

My name is David Lundin. I have been a resident of the Mat-Su Borough for over 12 years. As an active member of Palmer Fire & Rescue, I see first-hand the injuries and property damage that occur due to motor-vehicle collisions on Mat-Su roadways. I am also a professional civil engineer.

I support the many infrastructure projects contained within SB 160 especially those projects that improve the transportation infrastructure within the Mat-Su. I was an active member of the Road Bonds Yes! group that help secure the passage of the most recent Mat-Su Borough Road Bond proposition. Mat-Su voters overwhelming passed this Road Bond package during last October's municipal election. This \$64.0 million bond package is to be shared 50/50 between the Borough and the State. This Bond Package funds 13 important road and pathway projects that both complement and supplement the existing transportation system in the Borough. Improving these roadways will improve safety and provide transportation options to residents who currently must use congested roadways.

I strongly support and am grateful for the existing \$20.0 million of state match currently contained in SB 160 on page 5 lines 17 and 18. I urge you to consider adding the additional \$12.0 million to fully fund the State's match as it would allow the Borough to move forward in an effective and efficient manner to implement this important road program. These 13 projects will improve connectivity, traffic flow and most importantly safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Lundin, PE
3850 N. Vista Circle
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 244-7745 cell
dlundin@HDL.alaska.com



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SF 1N
Committee name
Committee on SB 160, dated 3/22/12
Bill/Subject

Honorable Senators,

I am submitting the following written testimony on SB 160.

I am Tom Adams; I have lived in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for nearly 30 years. I have been involved in Alaskan transportation projects throughout my 20 year professional career both as a civil engineering consultant and an employee of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB); I am currently a member of the MSB Planning Commission.

I support the many infrastructure projects contained within SB 160 especially those projects that improve the transportation infrastructure within the Mat-Su Borough. I was an active member of the Road Bond Yes! group that advocated passage of the recent Road Bond package; Mat-Su voters overwhelming passed this Road Bond package during last October's municipal election. The \$64.0 million Bond package is to be shared 50/50 between the Borough and the State. This Bond package funds 13 important road and pathway projects that both complement and supplement the existing transportation system in the borough, including state roads. Improving these roads will provide transportation options to residents who are currently funneled on to the congested Parks and Glenn Highways.

I strongly support and am grateful for the existing \$20.0 million of state match currently contained in SB 160 on page 5 lines 17 and 18. I urge you to consider adding the additional \$12.0 million to fully fund the State's match as it would allow the Borough to move forward in an effective and efficient manner to implement this important road program. These 13 projects will improve connectivity, traffic flow and most importantly safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Adams, P.E.
7772 E. Breckendridge Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
907-841-6413



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SFIN

Committee name

Committee on

SB 160

Bill/Subject

, dated 3/22/12

To the Senate Finance Committee;

I am expressing public interest during the SB 160 public comment period for the committee meeting tonight. I am writing in support of the **Alaska Association of Conservation Districts** (AACD). These Districts perform essential work throughout Alaskan communities that would otherwise not be accomplished. Government agencies such as DNR, NRCS, Div. of Ag, USDFW, AKDF&G, and many others rely on Conservation Districts to assist with projects that benefit the government, local businesses, local citizens, and Alaskan visitors alike.

In my community, the Conservation District builds and maintains public trails, provides nutrient management plans for farmers and gardeners, rehabilitates shoreline at valuable fish habitat sites, helps stop the spread of noxious weeds, does land capability classification data collection to determine the best sites for future agriculture use, creates GIS maps for government agriculture use, assists local citizens with flower beds and tourist attractions in Talkeetna, and much, much more. State funding is **essential** to obtain funding for these projects because they all require match funding. Without State funding, that match would be unavailable and these projects would not be accomplished.

The District hires local youth, ages 14-17, to accomplish most of the jobs listed above through the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). These youth live in an impoverished community where 72% of the school kids are on the free and reduced lunch program. The jobs provided by the local Conservation District allow these kids to not only make a good wage, but learn work ethics, responsibility, and conservation practices at the same time. There are always more youth looking for a good job than there are YCC positions to fill, without State funding there may be no jobs for the local youth. The community is very upset to hear the YCC is in danger of shutting down due to a lack of State funding.

Please help our community help the conservation of natural resources. Without this, where would we be today? Please continue to fund the Conservation Districts and allow these important tasks to continue.

Sincerely,

Laura Allen

lauraleettraveler@yahoo.com



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 5FLW Committee name
Committee on SB 160, dated 3/22/12
Bill/Subject

I stopped by to testify at the hearing today at the the Mat-Su LIO on Senate Bill #160, but was told that I probably not be able to testify in person due to the number of people to be heard and time constraints.

A suggestion was made that I e-mail my comments to the LIO in lieu of public testimony.

I respectfully request that the Alaska Legislature approve State matching funds for the subject Mat-Su Borough Proposition 2.

The roads and trails included in Proposition 2 are critical transportation infrastructure for the fastest growing community in the State.

Thank you.

Steven M Miller, PE
President, American Society of Civil Engineers Mat-Su Branch
O (907) 376-9614
C (907) 232-8212



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SFIN

Committee name

Committee on SB 160 / SB 107

Bill/Subject

, dated 3/22/12

I stopped by to testify at the hearing today at the Mat-Su LIO on Senate Bill #160, but was told that I probably not be able to testify in person due to the number of people to be heard and time constraints.

A suggestion was made that I e-mail my comments to the LIO in lieu of public testimony.

I respectfully request that the Alaska Legislature approve State funding for Senate Bill #107 for new engineering buildings on the UAA and UAF campuses.

Alaska has many challenging energy projects in its future, including:

- The Watana Hydroelectric Project.
- Some version of a natural gas pipeline.
- Development of shale oil production on the North Slope.
- Development of heavy oil fields at Greater Prudhoe Bay.
- Development of offshore oil in the Chukchi Sea.

In addition to these energy projects, Alaska will need all of the other infrastructure including homes, institutional and commercial buildings, transportation systems, utilities, ports, and educational facilities to meet the needs of its citizens.

All of these projects will require engineers and engineering.

New engineering buildings at UAA and UAF will signal Alaska's commitment to educating its own citizens for those future engineering opportunities. The new facilities will also help to draw talented engineering students from elsewhere to Alaska to get educated here and help build Alaska's future.

Please pass on my respectful request for funding of Senate Bill #107.

Thank you.

Steven M Miller, PE
President, American Society of Civil Engineers, Mat-Su Branch
O (907) 376-9614
C (907) 232-8212