From: Steven Butts
To: Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject: Support for HB-22
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 8:52:27 PM

Hello,

I am reaching out to voice my support for HB-22 and for you to get it moved through the legislative process.

We have seen too many highly trained first responders leave the state for retirement benefits not offered here. I believe that the proposed package is fair and the math has shown it is sustainable. It is a more modest retirement plan than previous defined benefit plans but still offers financial security for our first responders in retirement.

I believe that HB-22 will go a long way in solving the recruitment and retention problem Alaska has faced the last 17 years. We are spending nearly $200,000 to hire and train one person. This used to be an investment to keep an employee for 25 years, now employees are leaving in as early as 1 year after we have invested time and money into training them.

The promise of a secure retirement will address the retention issues and allow us to keep our people home.

Thank you for your time and for your efforts on behalf of our state.

Steven Butts
Anchorage, AK