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A Communication From

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CS for HB 73 (26-LS0303\C) **Sponsor Statement**

Special license plates for firefighters and emergency service providers are a way to say "thank you" to those who give of their time and risk their lives, to serve the people and communities of Alaska.

The purpose of these plates is two-fold. One is to recognize and thank firefighters and emergency service providers (EMS, Rescue), both volunteer and paid, active and former, who we know give much and ask so little.

The second is to encourage volunteerism.

By providing these license plates the hope is that residents of Alaska will recognize and acknowledge the importance of volunteerism, and possibly plant a seed in the hearts of some that will grow into action, resulting in more individuals volunteering not only in fire departments, but in their communities.

The firefighters and emergency medical service providers strongly support this legislation as evidenced by their letters of support and the petitions they signed this past summer – included in your bill packet.

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Last revised 3/23/10