



January 26, 2011

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

HB 57 is well over due in this state and in our seaside community of Seward, especially with the lack of public transportation across the state and the cost of fuel in our community, which is now at \$3.87/gallon.

Seward has taken the necessary steps over the past 15 years to develop a bike friendly community by partnering with the Department of Transportation to designate bike lanes on the state highway; built separated bike paths along the highway where space allows; a bike path from the north harbor following the coastline to the Alaska Sealife Center and current discussion with the National Forest and DOT about building a separated bike path from the highway out to Exit Glacier National Park.

Two years ago, the City of Seward partnered with Providence Hospital to create a wellness plan for our community. The Wellness grant has funded public bike racks, dietary counseling, fitness programs and some prevention programs that encourage a healthy lifestyle.

How would seniors benefit from HB57? Increase and improve balance and flexibility; provide independence by having safe and inexpensive mode of transportation; the opportunity to get outside and become part of their community by traveling on a non motorized vehicle; and an improved outlook on life knowing they can move at a speed that is faster than walking.

Can't you see it now? People of all ages, on all types of bikes, full size tricycles with flowery baskets, recumbent bicycles or unicycles for the really ambitious (Seward's own Magistrate Peck), enjoying the sites, sounds and sea scents from the comfort of a non motorized vehicle.

Thank you Representative Seaton! Sponsoring this very important, progressive bill this legislative session will cost a fraction compared to the multitude of benefits for the Alaskan.

Sincerely,

Dana Paperman

Seward Senior Center

***Board of Directors
2010-2011***

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Our Mission Statement

*To insure honor, dignity,
security, and independence
for older Alaskans;
assistance in maintaining
meaningful and quality lives.*

*A non profit Agency
TAX ID: 92-0072425*

Seward Senior Citizens, Inc., PO Box 1195 ~ Seward, AK 99664, (907) 224-5604
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"Serving senior citizens for 33 years"