



January 31, 2014

The Honorable Representative Feige

Dear Representative Feige:

The Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates your interest in assisting agriculture and natural resources in Alaska. Thank-you for your efforts to try and improve the agricultural industry and for your support of Alaska's soil and water districts. However, the FSWCD board of supervisors cannot accept or support HB 207 as it is written at this time.

FSWCD represents over 350 cooperators (members) and countless numbers of other private landowners and users within our district which stretches from Ft. Yukon to Ruby to Central and south to the border of the Salcha/Delta soil and water district. It is our mission to serve as a grassroots organization representing the will and direction of the people as it relates to natural resources and private land.

Our major concern when this bill was presented to us at the AACD fall meeting was the section that states that the districts will be regulated by the new board. Although we expressed our concern at the time, this portion of the bill has not been changed. We also are aware that the Farm Bureau did not vote to support this bill as written. Many of the landowners we serve are in the Alaska agricultural industry and members of the Alaska Farm Bureau.

HB 207, as it is written, would dilute the desires of those we serve and radically change the mission and the operation of soil and water districts across the state.

FSWCD looks forward to working with you to change HB 207 to a bill that is acceptable to our constituency and that would improve the services that we provide them.

Sincerely,

Randolf Scharfenberg FSWCD chair