



ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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www.alaskapffa.org

North Pole – Ketchikan – Fairbanks – Anchorage – Kotzebue – Juneau – Shemya



Honorable Craig Johnson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capital Room
Juneau AK 99801

Representative Johnson:

My name is Tom Wescott and I'm the President of the Alaska Professional Firefighters Association. The AKPFFA represents roughly 500 firefighters from Kotzebue to Ketchikan and on behalf of these hard workingmen and women I'm writing you today to encourage our Alaska State legislators to support HB 304.

HB 304 will reassign a seat on the Alaska Fire Standards Council to the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association (AKPFFA). We feel the importance behind this reassignment is to better coordinate with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the parent organization to the AKPFFA, to which the Council references training and certification standards for education here in Alaska. The IAFF has a vast well-respected library of training modules and proven standards that they have compiled for the fire service since 1918. This relationship will open up those paths making it easier for the Council to access this information along with education towards receiving grants that can assist smaller departments with training needs, an obvious benefit for our small town Alaska fire departments.

The seat that the AKPFFA is asking to reassign to their organization is a seat that is represented by a city consisting of a population greater than 2,500. This seat historically has been filled by a firefighter from either the city of Fairbanks or the city of Anchorage, both to which our organization represents.

The AKPFFA has had extensive meetings and discussions with the Standards Council on this legislation. The council is positive on this reassignment knowing it will bring a voice to the table not only representing roughly 500 Alaskan Fire Fighters from some of Alaska's largest cities, but also a valuable tool with international resources for training and standards education.

Thanks for your support on this legislation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Wescott'.

Thomas A. Wescott
President AKPFFA
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