

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Doniece Gott](#)
Subject: FW: Revenue Sharing Testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:19:23 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Hamar, Stephanie (City of Kasaan) [<mailto:cityofkasaan1@aptalaska.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:30 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>
Subject: Revenue Sharing Testimony

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am the City Administrator for the City of Kasaan, and am writing to share some personal thoughts on how Community Revenue Sharing affects my community of approximately 60 residents.

I have been hired to work 15 hours each week to carry out the day-to-day functions of operating a municipal office. Prior to my hire, the Mayor provided this service on a volunteer basis. With annual turnover in the Mayoral position, this caused difficulty in providing consistent, fair service to our residents. There is very little wasted time to be found in such a short, demanding schedule. I work tirelessly to keep us in compliance with state and local regulations, and to make forward progress during the rare ebbs in activity we see a few times each year.

In our municipality's combined work hours, we employ less than two full time staff. These other members of staff both work short, diligent hours. Our city is the sole provider of clean water, refuse removal, and sewer in the area (which is multiple hours from the nearest town).

Besides these more obvious vital services, we also operate the post office, hold important historical information, provide a dry indoor place for residents to gather, and serve as the emergency center for the village.

This city may not be viable without the Community Revenue Sharing funds. Our budget has been cut further each year, and we aim to reduce expenses to the bare minimum. Raising costs for residents does bring in revenue, but in a village of only 60 people, you can only remove so much before the pockets are empty. Community Revenue Sharing has been a big contributor in our ability to provide access to clean water and other necessities to our residents. After trimming operating costs significantly, removal of services may be the inevitable reality for our residents.

In a remote village without water, sewer, or a way to remove refuse, do the people remain? Does one of two remaining Alaskan Haida villages dwindle into nonexistence as its residents relocate? Our people may have once quenched their thirst from the rivers, produced no more than midden as refuse, and taken care of personal business behind a tree, but the reality of being Alaskan Native has changed. I can't possibly read the future, but I can call on past experience to see possible outcomes, and this one is very concerning.

I ask that whomever has some responsibility in this decision deeply consider how it will impact small communities in Alaska that rely on Community Revenue Sharing funds.

Thank you,
Stephanie Hamar