

Louise Bauman
PO Box 1758
Nome, AK 99762
Phone 907-443-2583

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Senator Donny Olson
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Olson:

In the February 19, 2015 Nome Nugget article "SB36 proposes to put legal notices online." The questions raised are "what about some very slow internet in rural Alaska? What about cost of internet to download long reports?" Some other questions are what about the handicapped access to these notices and reports?

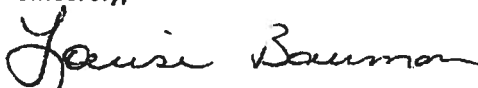
Another question is what about compliance with the Federal Funding programs that require community-wide meetings, public hearings and/or petitions? The State of Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs Grant Manual explicitly states the federal laws need to be complied with. The lack thereof would jeopardize the federal funding programs which the municipalities and state are largely dependent upon.

SB36 should be discussed with the Congressional Delegation with these discussion points. Is this an ethical practice for the state to adopt SB 36 to allow only publishing legal notices on the internet? This brings up the question of justice. True the state is tightening up the budget. However reports and notices are required from the many state and municipal departments that govern the Department of Fish and Game and The Department of Natural Resources. The majority of funding for these and many municipal programs come from federal resources that mandate laws such as Equal Access, Disability, Discrimination and many other human rights.

The term human rights implies that certain rights-to-life, to freedom, to the pursuit of happiness—are ours at birth and cannot be arbitrarily taken away except during extreme circumstances such as wartime. We live in a society where individuals and groups have certain rights that exist under conditions regardless of external circumstances. Denying the rights of a group or individual is unethical in most parts of the world. SB 36 falls into this category. The proposed SB 36 bill is unfair, especially to those who live in rural Alaska.

In closing, I recommend to the State Legislature to oppose SB 36.

Sincerely,


Louise Bauman