



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

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March 22, 2012

The Honorable Cathy Munoz, Chair  
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for HB 366, Disaster Planning and Services**

Dear Chair Munoz:

Thank you for introducing HB 366, a bill to establish a comprehensive Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) that would allow all political subdivisions to transcend their jurisdictional boundaries to receive and render aid to other political subdivisions in the event of disasters and emergencies. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly identified intrastate mutual aid legislation as one of its legislative priorities in 2010, therefore, the Borough is pleased to offer our support of HB 366. We believe that this legislation is good public policy that will provide for a consistent and integrated mutual aid system to ensure an effective response in disaster situations.

The 2009 ice jam flooding, which devastated communities located along the Yukon River, demonstrated a critical need for an intrastate mutual aid system. The Fairbanks North Star Borough provided fire apparatus to City of Eagle after that community's fire station was submerged during the flooding. Borough emergency management staff assisted with sheltering a plane load of evacuated elders and children from a Yukon River village. These communities are geographically isolated from the Borough and, therefore, mutual aid agreements with these communities did not exist. The myriad of issues that have arisen with regard to authorities, compensation, liability, and the ability to provide timely assistance, as a result of the Yukon River flooding response clearly demonstrates the value of having agreements and procedures in place long before a disaster occurs. The establishment of an intrastate mutual aid system framework as proposed by HB 366 will substantially close this gap.

Disasters know no political boundaries. They can happen at any time, in any place, and to anyone. HB 366 provides an integrated and structured framework to provide efficient and effective emergency aid and relief to all Alaskan residents when disaster strikes. Thank you for your consideration and support of HB 366.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Hopkins".

Mayor Luke Hopkins

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

From: Billie Bob Allen [<mailto:bballen@mtaonline.net>]  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:04 PM  
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz  
Cc: Michael Paschall  
Subject: Support for HB366

The Honorable Cathy Munoz  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Chair, House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Dear Representative Munoz:

Please accept this letter as support for HB366 which would establish an intrastate mutual aid system in Alaska. I have been authorized by my client, Alaska State Fair, Inc., (ASF) to notify you of their support for HB366. We have also issued a letter of support for the companion Bill SB208 to Senator Joe Paskvan sponsor of the proposed legislation through the Senate State Affairs Committee.

ASF management has been working with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough EMS and the State Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in regards to emergency planning in the event of a disaster. Signatory to an Agreement to develop an initial plan to create shelter for the people of the Mat-Su Borough in the event of a disaster are the Mat-Su Borough, State of Alaska, Department of Corrections, Mat-Su Borough School District, American Red Cross, City of Palmer and Mat-Su Regional Medical Center. The purpose of the Agreement (MOU) is to form a partnership to plan, prepare, and implement mass sheltering protocol for use on the Alaska State Fair grounds.

To that end, Madam Chair, the ASF has pledged it's assets, where needed to benefit the people of the State of Alaska in the event of a disaster in any fashion that they can. ASF has approximately 130,000 sf under roof and is accessible by surface, rail, and air.

The commitment to assist by the Alaska State Fair supports their pledge and agreement to be a part of an intrastate mutual aid system, thus their favor to the passage of HB366.

Madam Chair, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Truly,

Bill Allen  
Legislative Consultant

cc: Michael Paschall

Sent from my iPad



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February 29, 2012

Senator Joe Paskvan  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Paskvan,

Thank you for introducing SB 208; An Act establishing an Alaska intrastate mutual aid system and relating to the duties of the Alaska division of homeland security and emergency management and the duties of the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission.

The model legislation that has been put forth by the collaboration of NEMA and FEMA, to promote an Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), is legislation that the Alaska Municipal League believes should be implemented within the State of Alaska. The ability for one political subdivision to receive and/or render aid to another is both wise and important to all involved.

Emergencies have no respect for jurisdictional boundaries that we impose upon our state. Therefore, emergency responders must be able to depend on other political subdivisions for coordination in order to protect lives and property. SB 208, as we interpret it, would allow for a statewide agreement, rather than the Alaska Disaster Act which provides for mutual aid between neighboring political subdivisions.

The Alaska Fire Chief's Association is a member of AML and we support their hard work and commitment to enhancing all safety needs with regards to fire fighting. Because of this relationship and the importance to municipalities to be able to help protect their residents, we stand in strong support of SB 208.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathie Wasserman'.

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director



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March 9, 2012

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Room 101  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 208 (Paskvan)—Support

Dear Chair Wielechowski:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate State Affairs Committee to support SB 208, authored by your Committee Vice-Chair Senator Joe Paskvan.

SB 208 is based on model legislation recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). SB 208 would provide a comprehensive statewide mutual aid system that would enable all political subdivisions to receive and render aid to other subdivisions in case of disasters and emergencies. Some mutual aid agreements already exist but SB 208 would provide a blueprint that would be consistent throughout Alaska.

AARP believes that SB 208 would benefit our members as well as the general public.

Surveys of the older population (over 50) indicate that of those who self-identify that they will need help evacuating their homes in a natural disaster, half indicate that they will require help from someone outside their household. Older people, who face special health and other risks, will likely be more vulnerable during disasters than the general adult population. Recent disasters have highlighted how devastating to older adults such events are. Physical capacity and resiliency place frail older adults at special risk. For example, a study conducted by AARP after Hurricane Katrina found that many older adults lost their lives when they were abandoned in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Older adults may lack the ability to get to emergency food and water distribution centers. Older adults rely disproportionately on informal networks for support. When disaster strikes, these networks may be destroyed, leaving older adults at high risk.

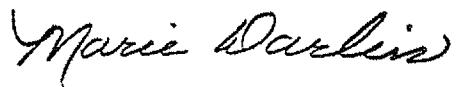
We understand that SB 208 is about governmental entities working together. We also understand that our members and the general public will benefit when government emergency planning takes place at all levels.

AARP urges an "AYE" vote on SB 208.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Joe Paskvan  
Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Senator Kevin Meyer