

ALASKA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705

March 16, 2012

Representative Cathy Munoz
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801 – 1182

Reference: HB 366 “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.”

Dear Representative Munoz,

On behalf of the Alaska fire Chiefs Association, I want to thank you for introducing HB 366. Alaska fire Chiefs Association fully supports this bill and encourages its adoption.

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association in conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security have been working over the last two years to develop and intrastate mutual aid system for the State of Alaska. Currently we are one of only four states who do not have a system in place with the statutory authority that allows communities to come to the aid of other communities in a time of an emergency.

Mutual aid is defined by FEMA as “... agreements between agencies, organizations, and the jurisdictions that provides a mechanism to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and other associated services. The primary objective is to facilitate rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support to, during, and after an incident.

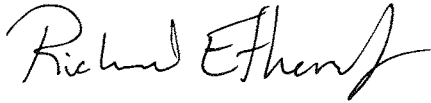
Currently local communities may have mutual aid agreements to provide fire services to their neighboring communities as provided under AS 18.7 0.150 “Adoption of Mutual Fire Aid Agreements”. However these agreements are limited in scope and do not provide for all of the potential needs of communities.

HB 366 gives us the needed framework that will allow us to develop a comprehensive intrastate mutual aid system. HB 366 addresses several key issues including liability and compensation that are not currently addressed and state statute. HB 366 will allow one Alaska community to assist another Alaska community regardless of the location or need however in no way are communities obligated or required to provide assistance.

The Alaska fire Chiefs Association is committed to seeing a comprehensive intrastate mutual aid system work in Alaska. We would also like to see our organization included as one of the participating groups whom the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management would coordinate with in the operation of the Alaska intrastate mutual aid system.

The Alaska fire Chiefs Association supports House Bill 366 and urges its adoption. We look forward to working with the state and local communities in the development of an Alaska intrastate mutual aid system

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Etheridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Richard Etheridge, Fire Chief
AFCA Second Vice President



Capital City Fire / Rescue
820 Glacier Avenue
Juneau, AK. 99801

Representative Cathy Munoz
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

March 16, 2012

Reference: House Bill 366 "An act establishing an Alaska interstate 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 of emergency response commission."

Dear Representative Cathy Munoz,

On behalf of Capital City Fire Rescue, I would like to thank you for introducing house bill 366. Capital City Fire Rescue fully supports this bill and encourages its adoption. This bill will have a direct impact on our community as well as all other Alaskan communities.

This bill will create the framework and set the expectations for local governments to lend and receive assistance in a time of crisis. This is a formal interstate mutual aid agreement that is not currently provided in statute. Currently Alaska is one of only four states that do not have this type of formal agreement.

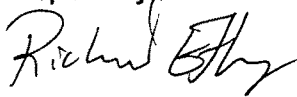
When a disaster occurs and mutual aid is requested, help may be delayed while jurisdictions work out the details of liability coverage and compensation. With the financial struggles of Alaskan communities resources and funding are limited. These struggles may create delays or hesitancy in approving assistance to other communities. This bill creates a statewide program answering all of these details prior to a disaster.

Capital City Fire Rescue has been requested to provide assistance to other communities on an occasional basis. Most recently our Department sent Hazardous Materials Technicians to

Thorn Bay to assist with a "white powder incident" in a school. We also sent paramedics to Hoonah as EMS support during the shooting incident of two police officers. Although these requests are not frequent they significantly impact the involved communities.

This bill will clearly spell out the procedures to request assistance and provide municipal administrators the tools they need to quickly evaluate these requests. I strongly urge HB 366 be adopted during this legislative session to give emergency responders the support they need to quickly respond to meet the needs of their communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Etheridge", written in a cursive style.

Richard Etheridge
Fire Chief

March 19, 2012

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

RE: Support of HB 366

Dear Chair Munoz:

I'm writing on behalf of Food Bank of Alaska and the state-wide anti-hunger network, in support of HB 366.

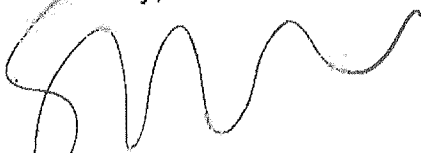
In times of disaster, access to safe food and water are a critical part of emergency response services. Food Bank of Alaska currently participates in Alaska VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) and also responded in times of disaster at the Miller's Reach and Hooper Bay fires. HB 366 will create an infrastructure that provides for coordinated, comprehensive, and consistent emergency response throughout Alaska. Based on model legislation for intrastate mutual aid systems (IMAS), HB 366 is promoted by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other emergency response organizations.

Food Bank of Alaska believes that HB 366 will provide an efficient structure for emergency services that will benefit everyone in Alaska. I encourage members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee to vote in favor of this legislation.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 907-222-3111 or smorgan@foodbankofalaska.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susannah Morgan
Executive Director

CC: Vice-Chair Neal Foster
Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Alan Dick
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Berta Gardner



STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693
PHONE: (907) 465-3250
FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 19, 2012

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

Subject: Support for HB 366, Disaster Planning and Emergency Management Services

Dear Chair Muñoz:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support of 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. This legislation is sponsored by the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee. 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.

Older persons with health problems are among the most vulnerable of Alaska's residents. When an emergency or natural disaster occur, they are the most likely to suffer from the direct impact of the force. Many have physical or cognitive impairments that limit their ability to respond and seek help. Frail older persons with special health problems on medication, equipment, or who have mobility needs are at heightened risk during a disaster and require special assistance to get to places offering food and emergency shelter. The horrific experiences of Hurricane Katrina and the loss of life of older adults who were abandoned in nursing homes and assisted living facilities highlight the need to improve disaster response preparedness and planning for vulnerable populations.

Disasters know no political boundaries. They can happen at any time, in any place, and to any one. HB 366 provides an integrated and structured framework to provide efficient and effective emergency aid and relief to older Alaskans and all Alaskan residents when the unthinkable strikes. Thank you for your consideration and support of HB 366. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director, by phone (465-4879) or email (denise.daniello@alaska.gov) should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Neal Foster, Vice Chair
Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Alan Dick

Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Berta Gardner

Terry Harvey

From: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 7:40 PM
To: Terry Harvey
Subject: Fwd: Support for HB366

Cathy Muñoz
House of Representatives
District 4

Begin forwarded message:

From: Billie Bob Allen <bballen@mtaonline.net>
Date: March 19, 2012 12:03:36 PM AKDT
To: "rep_Cathy_Munoz@legis.state.ak.us" <rep_Cathy_Munoz@legis.state.ak.us>
Cc: "michael_paschall@legis.state.ak.us" <michael_paschall@legis.state.ak.us>
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