ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Alaska Conference of Mayors

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March 8, 2017

Representative Mike Chenault
Alaska State House
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HB 148: An Act relating to service areas in second class boroughs; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Representative Chenault,

The Alaska Municipal League stands in support of HB 148. This bill appears to address a real concern and actually comes up with a workable solution.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough finds itself with just under 100 miles of road through unoccupied land, which presently lacks consistent coordinated emergency service coverage. The Borough wishes to create a highway corridor service area funded by federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds.

While the larger boroughs may have excellent coverage to specific areas, often there are gaps in that coverage due to uninhabited land masses. Accidents taking place in those areas are many times served based on specific availability during that particular incident. Obviously, consistent and planned response should be in place. This bill will allow that to happen. Current statutes require a service areal to be created through voter approval. This legislation, however, specifically deals those areas devoid of voters which may still require services.

We applaud your office for submitting a bill that addresses a real need in a community and one which can be used in many boroughs throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director