
From: L Niesen <cubwidow@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:59 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: SB67

I understand that this bill is in the Finance Committee now. Nikiski, my area, has a whole community that is now suffering the toxic effects of PFAS firefighting foam that pollutes a community well. I believe this material has been used all over Alaska, especially at airports and oil processing facilities. I hope you will move this bill forward for the good of Alaskans.

Len Niesen
Alaska resident

Sent from my iPhone



City of Galena
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March 25, 2024 Sent by email to: House.Finance@akleg.gov; and hfin@akleg.gov

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing concerning SB 67 for March 26, 2024.

During World War II, the Galena Air Field was built as part of the support infrastructure for the Lend-Lease Program. In the 1950's, during the height of the Cold War, the US Air Force expanded the Galena Air Field into a major base.

During the first 30 years, the village of Galena was located in what we call Old Town Site next to the river bank. We did have a population of 700 or more residents and we depended on wells in old town site for our water supply. In the intervening years, many chemicals such as PFAS/TCE were being used and entered the ground water, wells and soil.

In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted to close the base entirely, with closure completed by October 2008. Since the closure of the Base, there have been many concerns and questions regarding the contamination. We have questioned the Air Force on Trichloroethene (TCE) over the years and about PFAS. They have always stated the drinking water is safe.

My concern is if there is any small amount of contamination, the Air Force should be responsible and it would seem over the past 60 years the community of Galena has been exposed to PFAS and TCE in the ground water, wells and soil.

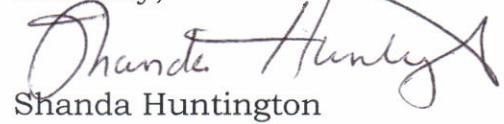
The community has seen many cases of cancer over the past 50 years and this continues. We truly believe the residents have been exposed to PFAS and TCE and other chemicals that harm our health.

We strongly support SB 67 to end the use of PFAS in firefighting foams because we want to protect our community and other communities

throughout Alaska from any further contamination. Safe alternatives are available that are effective and economical. We also support the take back of PFAS foam to make sure it is safely disposed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shanda Huntington

City Manager
City of Galena