

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE ALAN DICK

HOUSE DISTRICT 6

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"STRONG VALUES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES"

Alatna
Allakaket
Alcan
Aniak
Anvik
Arctic Village
Beaver
Beluga
Bettles
Birch Creek
Boundary
Central
Chalkyitsik
Chandalar
Chandalar Lake
Chicken
Chitochina
Chitina
Chuathbaluk
Circle
Coldfoot Camp
Copper Center
Crooked Creek
Deltana
Dot Lake
Dry Creek
Eagle
Eagle Village
Evansville
Flat
Fort Greely
Fort Yukon
Fortuna Ledge
Gakona
Galena
Georgetown
Grayling
Gulkana
Healy Lake
Holy Cross
Hughes

Huslia
Kaltag
Kennicott
Kenny Lake
Koyukuk
Lake Minchumina
Lime Village
Livengood
Manley Hot Springs
Marshall
McCarthy
McGrath
Medfra
Mentasta Lake
Minto
Nabesna
Nenana
Nikolai
Northway
Nulato
Ophir
Rampart
Red Devil
Ruby
Russian Mission
Shageluk
Slana
Sleetmute
Stevens Village
Stony River
Takotna
Tanacross
Tanana
Tazlina
Telida
Tetlin
Tok
Tonsina
Tyonek
Venetie
Wiseman

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 183 Application of the Village Safe Water Act

House Bill 183 amends the definition of "village" under the Village Safe Water Act. Currently an unincorporated community, a second class city, or a first class city with not more than 600 residents is eligible to receive a grant under the Village Safe Water Program. House Bill 183 amends this definition to include a *home rule city* with less than 600 residents.

A home rule city has the same government powers as a first class city. The difference rests in how the two cities are organized. A first class city is established under AS 29.35.250-260 while a home rule city adopts a charter as the framework for the city.

Four years ago the City of Nenana was awarded a Village Safe Water grant to upgrade an aging water and sewer system. The city worked diligently with state officials for several years to plan and finalize the project. Unfortunately, right before construction was to begin, the Department of Environmental Conservation notified Nenana that the city was not eligible to receive a Village Safe Water grant; the city was not a first class city, but a home rule city.

The change in HB 183 allows the City of Nenana to proceed with the needed upgrade to its water and sewer system using Village Safe Water funds. Passage of HB 183 this year ensures that a construction season is not lost.

Thank you for your support.