

Following are a few of the comments received concerning HB 170.

I have been involved with EMS since 1988 and this is the answer to every non paid volunteer agency biggest problem.

The ability to recruit and maintain volunteers for over 20 years has been at the mercy of the economy since we had very little to offer our volunteers.

This will allow volunteers to justify to their families and friends in a way that they can understand why they want to assist the public by providing essential services. Now they can show a monetary reason that most people have a better understanding of.

When they come home after a long day of work, that helps to pay the bills, and need to go back out for meetings, drill, or response this will help their families to understand and support them.

Thank you,--  
Roy Sursa  
President & EMS Chief  
Alaska Professional Volunteers Inc.  
Cell 907.229.0066



## ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705  
Phone: (907) 488-3400 FAX: (907) 488-6118

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March 17, 2011

Representative Eric Feige  
State Capitol, Room 126  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Reference: HB170 "An Act relating to municipal property tax exemptions on residences of certain volunteer emergency services personnel and the widows and widowers of volunteer emergency services personnel; and providing for an effective date."

Dear Representative Feige,

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports your efforts, with the introduction of HB170, in realizing the value and rewarding the services that Volunteer Fire and EMS responders give to the communities.

HB170 provides an incentive for those responders who give to their neighbors countless hours training and responding to emergencies without compensation. We look forward to working with you and the other sponsors of HB170.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of the name Jeff Tucker.

Jeff Tucker, President  
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association

From: housemajority\_email@housemajority.org  
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:19 PM  
To: Rep. Eric Feige  
Subject:HB170A

Categories: Mike

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enews@housemajority.org To correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or  
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Then change the TO: address to sbartholomew@alyeskaresort.com If suspected  
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+-----+

From: sbartholomew@alyeskaresort.com

Thank You!  
Although our community of Girdwood is part of the Municipality of Anchorage,  
We operate our own volunteer fire, EMS and rescue department. As a volunteer  
in our department I would like to say thank you for sponsoring this bill.  
HB170A will give incentive to many citizens in Alaska's rural communities to  
volunteer their much needed help.

Not only do our volunteers work as first responders to emergencies, many of us  
help to save lives by participating in fire prevention education and teaching  
community CPR and First Aid classes.

Thank You Again!  
Steve Bartholomew  
GVFD Fire Prevention Officer

~ Steve Bartholomew  
Zip Code: 99587

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Dear Mr Paschall,

Thank you for your efforts on HB 170. I have been on the HVFD in Haines since 1974, and served as Chief for many years and am currently the Assistant Chief since the Haines Borough appointed me Incident Commander of the Borough in the event of a disaster. So I know how hard it is to recruit and hold members as volunteers. It seems fewer and fewer of our younger folks are interested in volunteering these days. We have always had good interest on the EMS side, but not the Fire side of our department. This last year, the HVFD paid for the annual fees for the "Life Flight" service for all of our members as an incentive to interest new members.

This sounds like a great program, but know the cities will be concerned about the loss of revenue, and I talked to the Chief this morning about your bill and how we could work with the Borough (by defining "Active Member", to limit the exemption to only the members that are active in training and attending calls for some reasonable required time frame (to be determined - like 75% of the year or so). This would help us & the Borough to have truly active members. We have some members that work out of town in the mines etc. that are only available to us six months out of the year at best. This also limits the training they can attend, but offer back up for us when they are in town if we have a big event. But they would not qualify for the tax break because of their limited service, which I think would make it fair to both the Fire Department and the Borough. So I see this Bill as something we would have to work with our Borough to qualify.

Another possibility would be to base the % of the tax break to the % of training and calls the person attended during that tax year.

Thank you again,

Roc Ahrens  
Assistant Chief  
Haines Volunteer Fire Dept.

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