



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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March 9, 2010

Senator Joe Paskvan
Chairman, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 7
Juneau AK, 99801

Reference: CS SB129

Dear Senator Paskvan,

As per your request yesterday, the Alaska Fire Chief's Association has reviewed the document titled "A Side-By Side Comparison of the Public Process: Current Statute vs. Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 129". This document compares the minimum requirements that are required by AS 29.25.020 for a Municipality to adopt an ordinance to the proposed requirements in CS SB129. However it fails to provide all of the information for a true comparison.

The critical missing piece are the local Building Code adoption processes currently in place that far exceed the minimum requirements for simple ordinance adoption.

This process, outlined for four of the deferred communities in an attached document, shows the importance placed on Building Code adoption and the extraordinary steps that communities go through to ensure that all affected parties including building officials, fire officials, builders, architects, engineers, and most importantly building owners have a mechanism to have input and influence in Local Building Code adoption. More detailed information on all of the deferred communities can be provided if requested.

The "Side-By-Side" comparison does not address the requirement of CS SB129 that a cost benefit analysis be conducted and the costs involved. No other ordinance adoption process that a local community undertakes, which many have a far greater impact on residents, does the State of Alaska require a community to conduct a cost benefit analysis. Based on the importance local communities place on Building Code adoption it should be left to those jurisdictions to determine if this is a needed process, not imposed by the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tucker", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Tucker, President
Alaska Fire Chief's Association