



# Central Emergency Services

Central Kenai Peninsula Fire & EMS Providers

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**Keith Hamilton**  
**On-call Division Captain**

February 23, 2011

Michael Paschall  
Legislative Aide  
Representative Eric Feige  
Reference to HB 170

To Whom It May Concern,

I stand in full support of HB 170 which would tremendously allow agencies like Central Emergency Services to both recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. I have been a volunteer EMT and Firefighter for 33 years and know that keeping the middle aged member of fire and EMS services active in the department is helped by incentives and financial support where possible.

At CES, we have a number of young members who we recruit that don't normally have homes and are more transient. We have also a small number of volunteers who are closer to retirement years and find it harder to make ends meet with reduced workloads or retirement approaching. We have found in our ranks that the best volunteers to recruit (that are retained the most) are the ones with families that are working fully in our community and are staying the long haul and wish to give back to their community.

With the spirally cost of fuel among other expenses for volunteers, this manner of reducing tax burden would be an incredible way to retain people who are giving sacrificially to their communities. A few thousand dollars in tax breaks would be very encouraging for those who put their lives on the line to save taxpayers and homes thousands of dollars each year.

The Fire Chief of CES and I are in full support of this bill that would represent the 35 volunteers of Central Emergency Services.

Sincerely,

Captain Keith J. Hamilton