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February 5, 2013

Honorable Shelley Hughes
Alaska State Capital Building
Room 409
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HB40

Dear Representative Hughes,

Historically, the Alaska Municipal League has adamantly opposed all legislation that attempts to put property tax exemptions in place, as property tax is a local government authority in the State of Alaska. The State of Alaska has statutes in place requiring the State to reimburse for Senior Citizen's/Disabled Veteran's Property Tax; that does not take place and municipalities lose millions of dollars to this unfunded mandate.

The Alaska Municipal League takes its lead from its member municipalities. The municipalities that would be affected by HB 40 have not taken a stand against HB 40 and do not feel that it would be detrimental to their residents, as the ability to actually exempt any property is optional and there appear to be limitations and parameters on those who could qualify, thus helping the people this bill really intends to help.

Finding no substantial opposition to this bill, the Alaska Municipal League will take a neutral position on HB 40. We do thank you and your office for reaching out to the affected communities and for giving communities the choice as to whether their financial situation warrants these tax exemptions.

Again, we thank you for your willingness to work with us in regards to HB 40.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director
Alaska Municipal League