

February 7, 2014

Honorable Representative Mike Hawker  
Room 502  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: HB 275

Representative Hawker,

On behalf of the Alaska Municipal League, I would like to thank you for your submittal of HB 275: Electronic Distribution of Reports.

While local government in Alaska is proud of its openness, we still have difficulties in meeting all of the obligations required to post in ways that were once put in place for a very good reason, but now might be a bit antiquated; especially for larger municipalities.

Newspapers have certainly been replaced throughout the world with ieverything (phones, pads, pods, etc.). While I cannot verify this useless statistic, I have heard it said that Alaska has been ahead in the “use” of these machines, as we have such long distances to cover and less than adequate ways to receive/deliver mail.

As a long-time Mayor, in most small communities, for which concern was expressed in the prior hearing, I know if I heard a resident complain about not getting a notification due to lack of a computer, etc., I would make sure that another clearly identified place in my community held all necessary postings. As a “small-town Mayor,” one sees most of one’s constituents on a daily basis and has a difficult time ignoring requests.

We, at AML, are constantly looking for ways to make local government more effective and efficient. This might appear to be a small issue, but it can make a large difference to local government budgets.

Again, we thank you for submitting this bill. AML is in full support and we will do what we can to help this bill move through the system with a positive vote at the end.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director