



Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
"Representing Alaska's Finest"
A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 83



March 8, 2013

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: PSEA Local 803 Position Paper.

Dear Representative LeDoux,

HB 149 places those who fight fires at our airports under the provisions of presumptive coverage for exposure to certain chemicals and diseases for Workers Compensation. Airport firefighters were left out of legislation that became law in 2008. HB 149 amends AS 23 to include these firefighters employed by the state in the definition of firefighters currently covered.

Firefighters at airports fight structural and aircraft fires. As a result of their work, the potential for exposure to chemical and disease hazards exists. Including airport firefighters in Workers Compensation's presumptive coverage insures benefits equal to volunteer and municipal firefighters.

The bill corrects a mistake that occurred when airport firefighters were omitted from the law. The Public Safety Employees Association, representing airport firefighters, extends our thanks to Representative Gabriel LeDoux for introducing HB 149.

Sincerely,



Jake Metcalfe

Executive Director, PSEA