



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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February 17, 2014

The Honorable Peter Micciche, Chair
Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Reference: SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports and urges passage of SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

Several areas of the State including the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as well as other areas of the State, that have adjoining fire service areas, have seen residential enclaves developed after the fire service areas boundaries were established. These enclaves in some cases force the fire department responsible for the enclave to leave their service area and in some cases travel through one or more neighboring fire service areas, past closer fire stations, to provide fire and emergency medical services in the event of a 911 call.

To rectify this situation under current State Statutes it requires several votes of both of the affected fire service areas which comes at great expense and effort. SB 157 allows the a Borough to administratively transfer fire protection from one fire service area to another closer and more appropriate fire service area by meeting certain criteria adopted by local ordinance.

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports SB 157 "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes." This bill would allow the closest and most appropriate fire department to respond in an emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tucker", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief
2nd Vice-President Alaska Fire Chiefs Association
Legislative Committee Chair
jtucker@northstarfire.org