

From: [JOHN BOOHER](#)
To: [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Kelly Merrick](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)
Subject: Support HB79
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:52:17 AM

Hello I am writing in support of HB79. My name is John Booher, live in Eagle River, and have worked for the Anchorage Fire Department 18 years. Lifelong Alaskan.

In my career I have seen a substantial shift in how we view our career path at AFD. My generation feels fortunate to have a great job with a defined benefit. We stay for full careers. Other employment comes after retirement.

The Pers 4 employees openly discuss how they can maximize training to help them test for other departments. They travel to test in departments with better benefits. We all recognize the expense and time in training. It has now become acceptable around the fire house to actively discuss taking their training to another department. AFD trains them and they leave. Expensive! At a minimum I would guess we lose 5 a year. They go to other departments, they go full time commercial fishing, they go back to college, they become full time hunting guides, nurses, rad techs, they just go. These jobs offer better pay & benefits or big money. If you are young and intelligent there is no good reason to put your body at risk for ok money. Go someplace else, do something else, have some real opportunities. This is the new AFD.

Value employees putting their bodies at risk with an appropriate benefit package.

Thanks,
John Booher